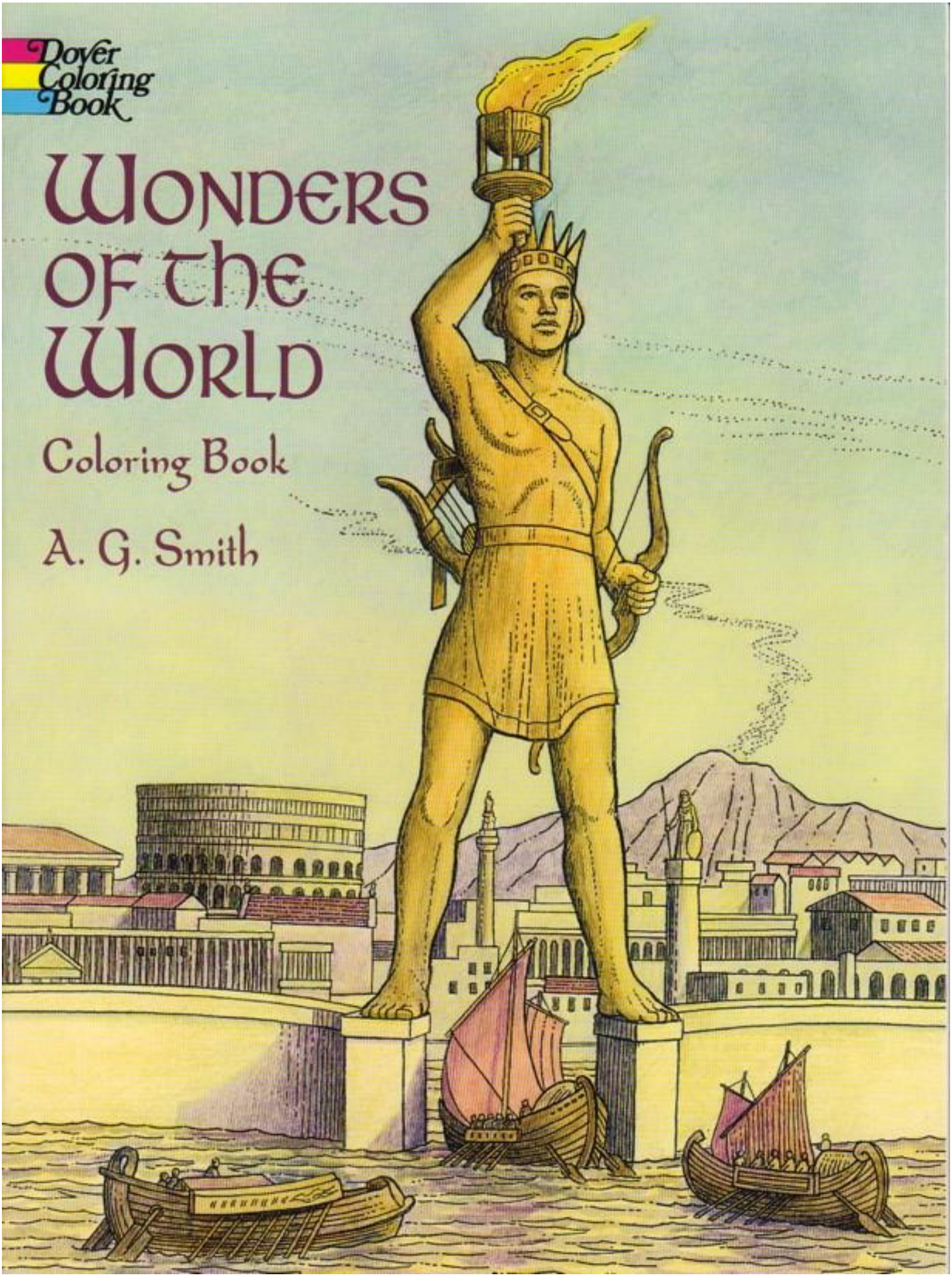
VISIT…

Dover Coloring Book

Wonders of the World

Coloring Book

A. G. Smith



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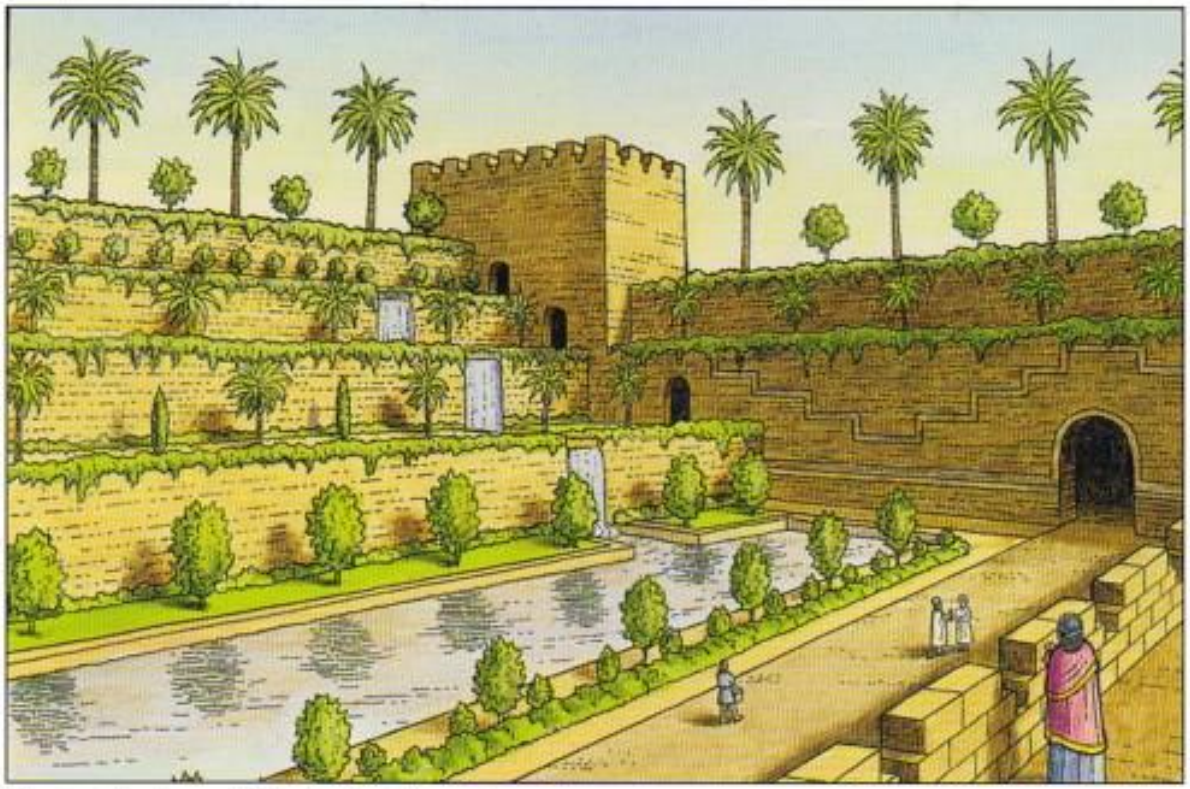

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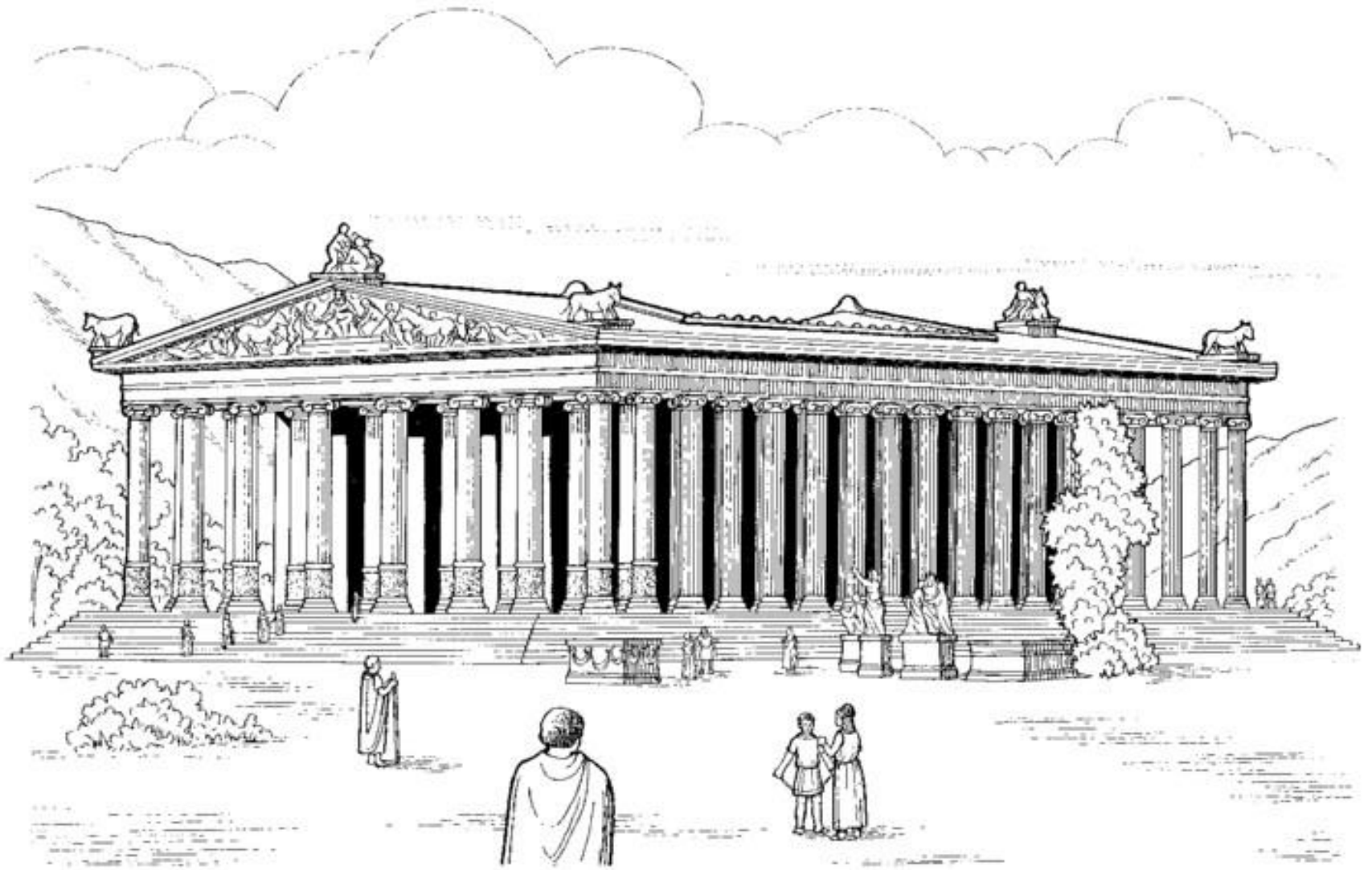
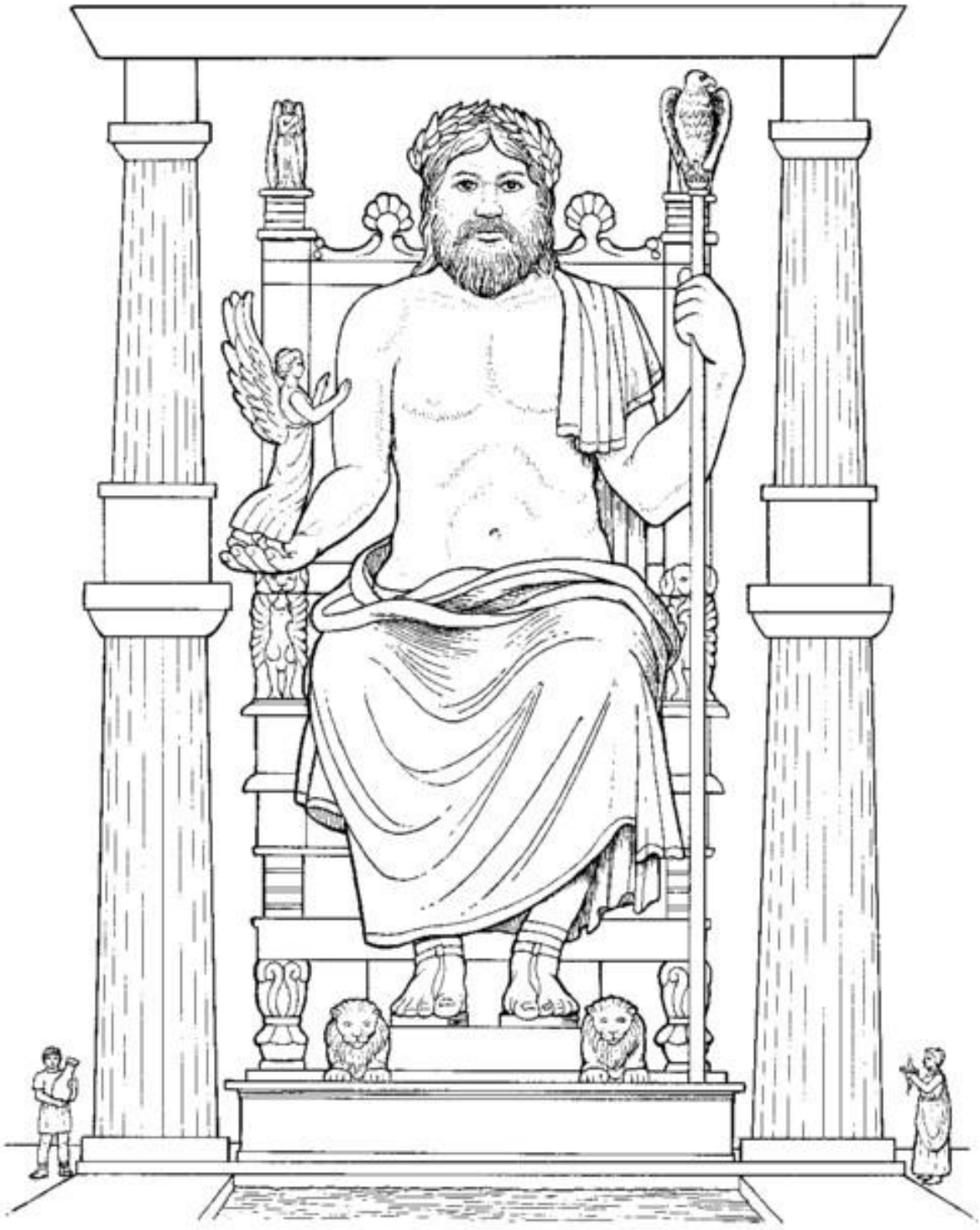
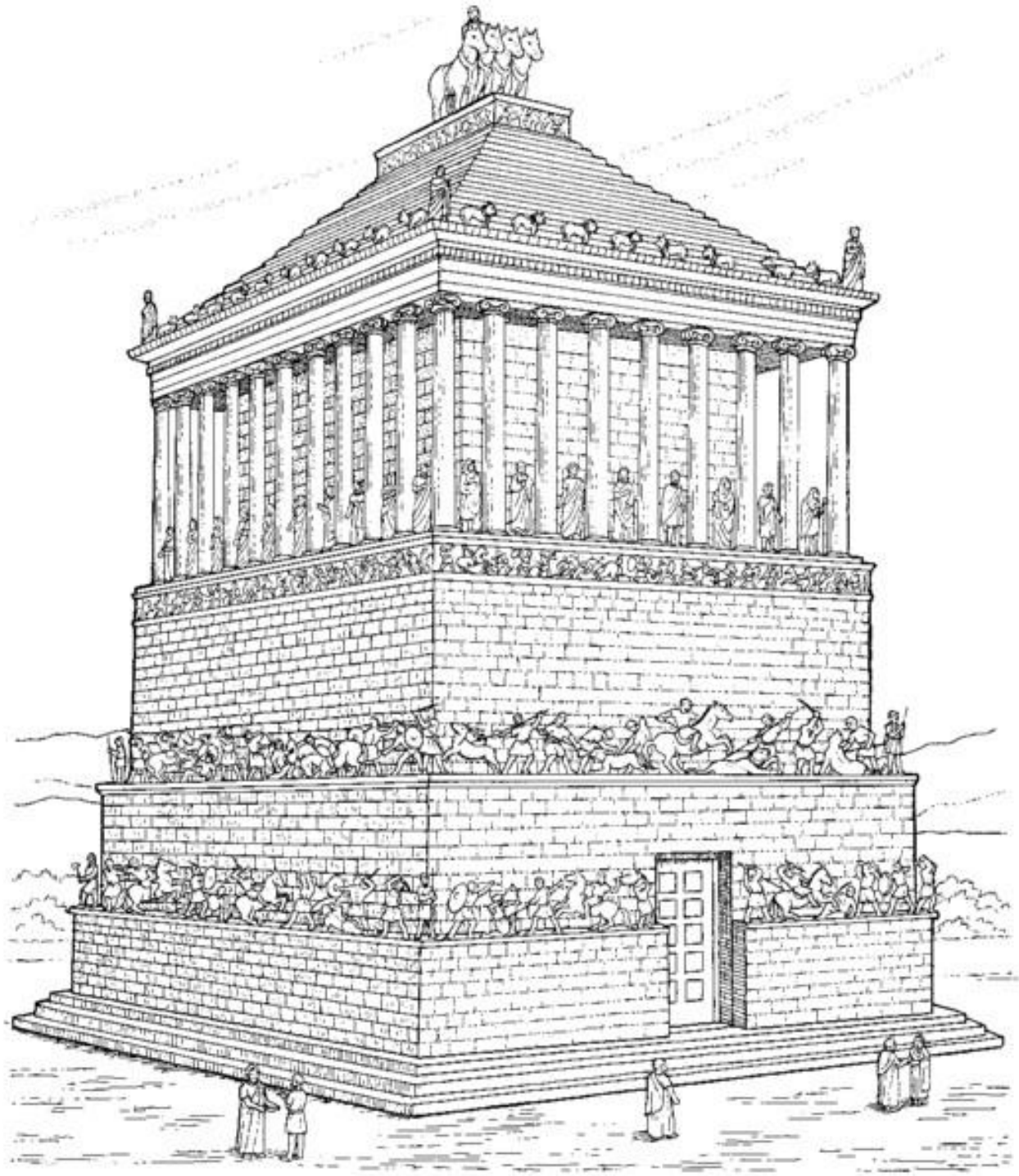
The **Parthenon** was built on the Acropolis, the high point of Athens, between 449 and 432 B.C. A marble temple that got its name from the Greek word *parthenos*, meaning virgin, it was about 230 feet long and 100 wide, and was built to house a huge gold and ivory statue of the goddess Athena, patron of the polis, or city-state, of Athens. The Parthenon contained other sculptures as well, and it is thought that all but the great statue of Athena were painted bright colors. In 296 B.C. the tyrant Lachares used the gold from Athena's statue to pay his army. In the fifth century A.D. the temple was converted into a Christian church, and in 1460 to a Turkish mosque. Much of the building was destroyed in 1687 when gunpowder the Turks stored in the temple exploded, and in 1801–1803 the Turks sold much of the remaining sculpture to Lord Elgin, who sold them to the British Museum.



The Parthenon was dwarfed by the **temple of Artemis**, built around 550 B.C. at Ephesus, in what is now Turkey. Antipater of Sidon, who had seen all the wonders of the world, declared, "When I saw the sacred house of Artemis that towers to the clouds, the [other wonders] were placed in the shade." According to Pliny, its base was 425 by 225 feet, it was 60 feet high, and it took 120 years to build. It was one of the first temples made of marble and was decorated with bronze statues by the most skilled artists of the time. In 356 B.C., the temple burned to the ground. It was rebuilt over the next twenty years, but was destroyed again by the Goths in A.D. 262. The remains of some of the second temple's sculptures can be seen in the British Museum. Today a single column stands in a marshy field to remind visitors that there once stood one of the wonders of the ancient world.

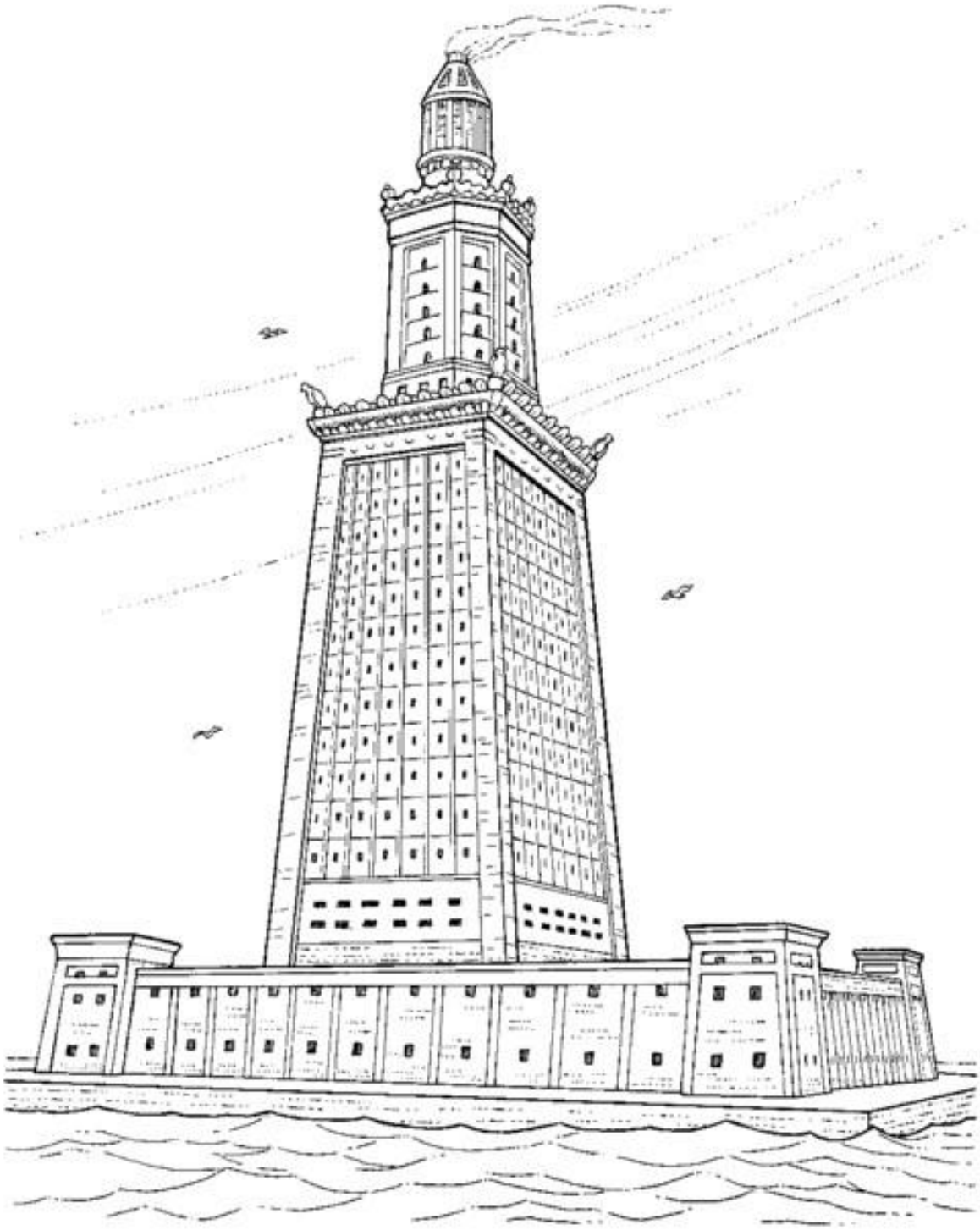


Around 440 B.C. the Athenian sculptor Pheidias began working on a statue for the temple of Zeus near the site of the ancient Olympic games in Olympia, about ninety miles west of Athens. Like the statue of Athena he had created for the Parthenon, the **statue of Zeus** was about forty feet high (about twice as high as the seated statue in the Lincoln Memorial)—so large, Strabo wrote, "that if Zeus moved to stand up he would unroof the temple." Zeus's skin was of ivory and his beard, hair, robe, and sandals of gold. In his right hand he held Nike, the goddess of victory, and in his left a scepter with an eagle perched on it. The statue is thought to have been moved to Constantinople and destroyed by fire in A.D. 462. In Olympia only the temple's fallen columns and its foundation remain, though fragments of the sculpture (showing the labors of Herakles) can be seen at the Louvre.

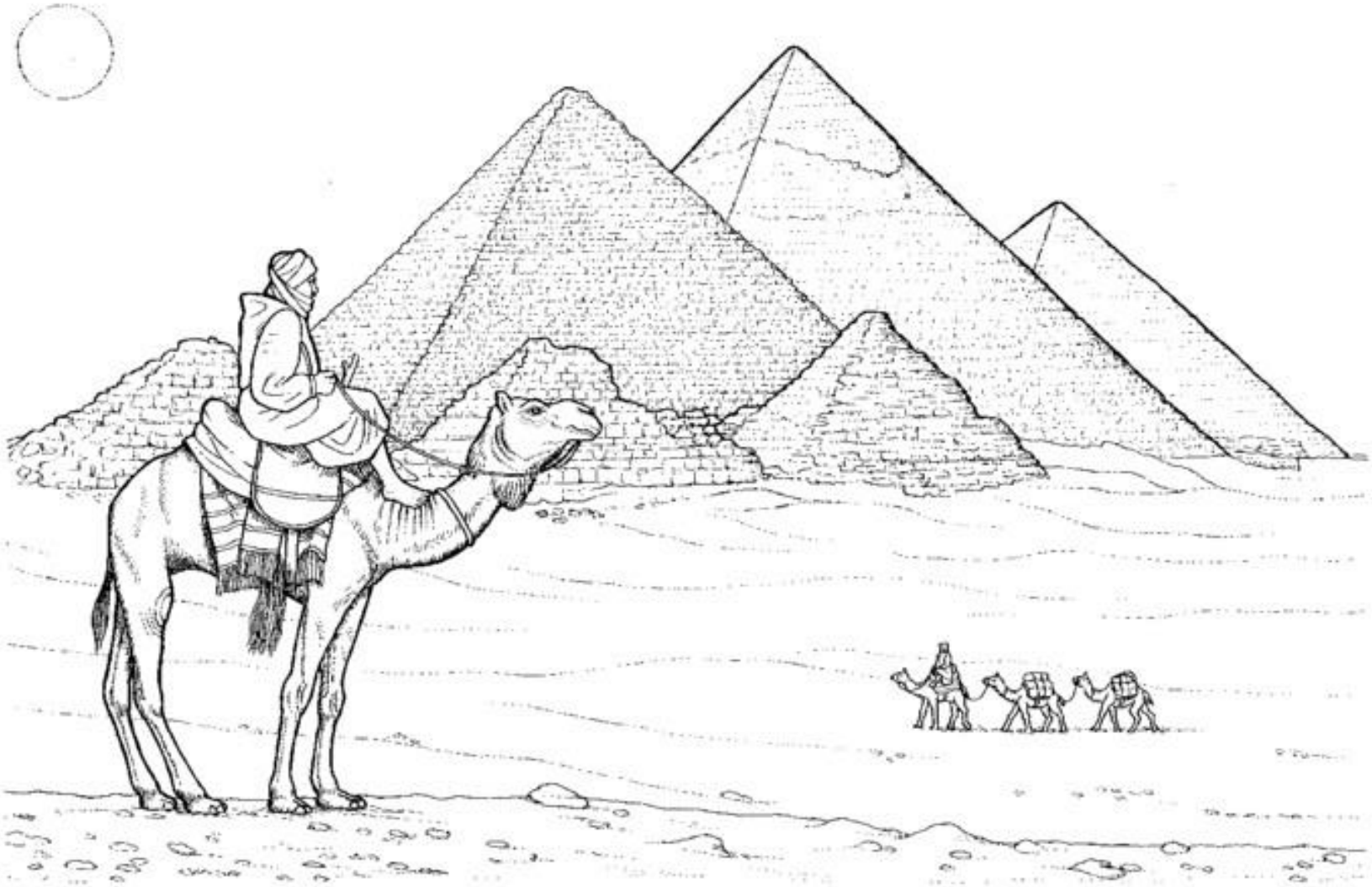


When Mausolus—the king of Caria from 377 to 353 B.C.—died, his beloved wife and sister, Queen Artemisia, ordered a great tomb built in Halicarnassus, on the Aegean Sea in southwestern Turkey. This **Mausoleum**, completed around 350 B.C., stood in a courtyard atop a platform with stone warriors on horseback guarding each corner. A staircase flanked by stone lions led to the top of the platform. The tomb itself—about 140 feet high, with a base of about 120 by 100 feet—was covered with marble. The lowest third was a tapering block decorated with relief sculpture. The next third was fronted by thirty-six columns with statues between them. The upper third was a stepped pyramid topped by a sculpture of Mausolus and Artemisia in a chariot pulled by four horses. After sixteen centuries, the Mausoleum was felled by an earthquake, and crusaders used its stones to build a castle. The sculptures of Mausolus and Artemisia survived and are on display at the British Museum in London.

Around 304 B.C. the citizens of Rhodes, a Greek island in the Aegean Sea, began to build a giant statue of the sun god, Helios, in thanks for the ending of a long war. They melted down bronze from the war machines invaders had left behind for the exterior of the figure, and when it was finished a dozen years later, the **colossus of Rhodes** was about 120 feet high—approximately the height of the Statue of Liberty—and stood on a fifty-foot pedestal. It might have been near the harbor, but certainly did not span the harbor entrance with its legs (though it is often pictured that way). The giant figure was nude, wore a spiked crown, held a cloak over its left arm, and shaded its eyes from the rising sun with its right hand. After fifty-six years, the colossus collapsed in an earthquake, and huge pieces of the figure lay along the shore till the seventh century A.D., when Arabs who had conquered Rhodes sold the remains as scrap metal.

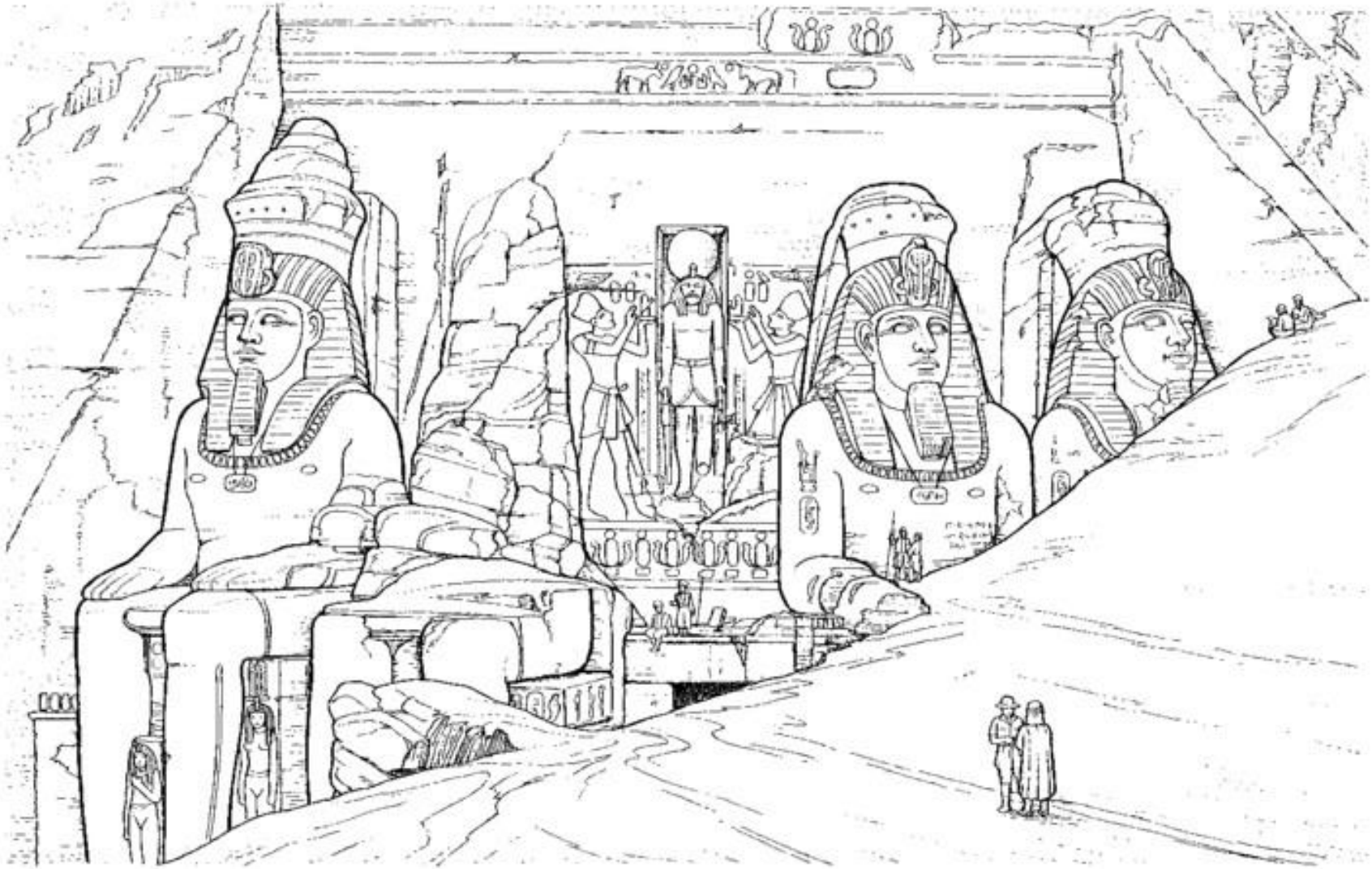


The last of the six lost wonders of the world to disappear was the **lighthouse of Alexandria**, which guided sailors into the harbor of Alexandria, Egypt, for 1,500 years before being toppled by earthquakes in A.D. 1326. It was ordered built by Ptolemy II in 290 B.C. When it was completed some twenty years later, it was one of the tallest structures on earth—about 400 feet high! An Arab traveler in 1166 said the bottom section was square and about 180 feet high; the next was octagonal, about 90 feet high; and on top of that was a twenty-four-foot-high cylinder with a mirror at top that reflected sunlight during the day and a fire that guided sailors at night. The little island it was on, Pharos, gave its name to the lighthouse and became the word for lighthouse in many languages. Visitors to Pharos were able to buy food at the observation platform at the top of the first level.

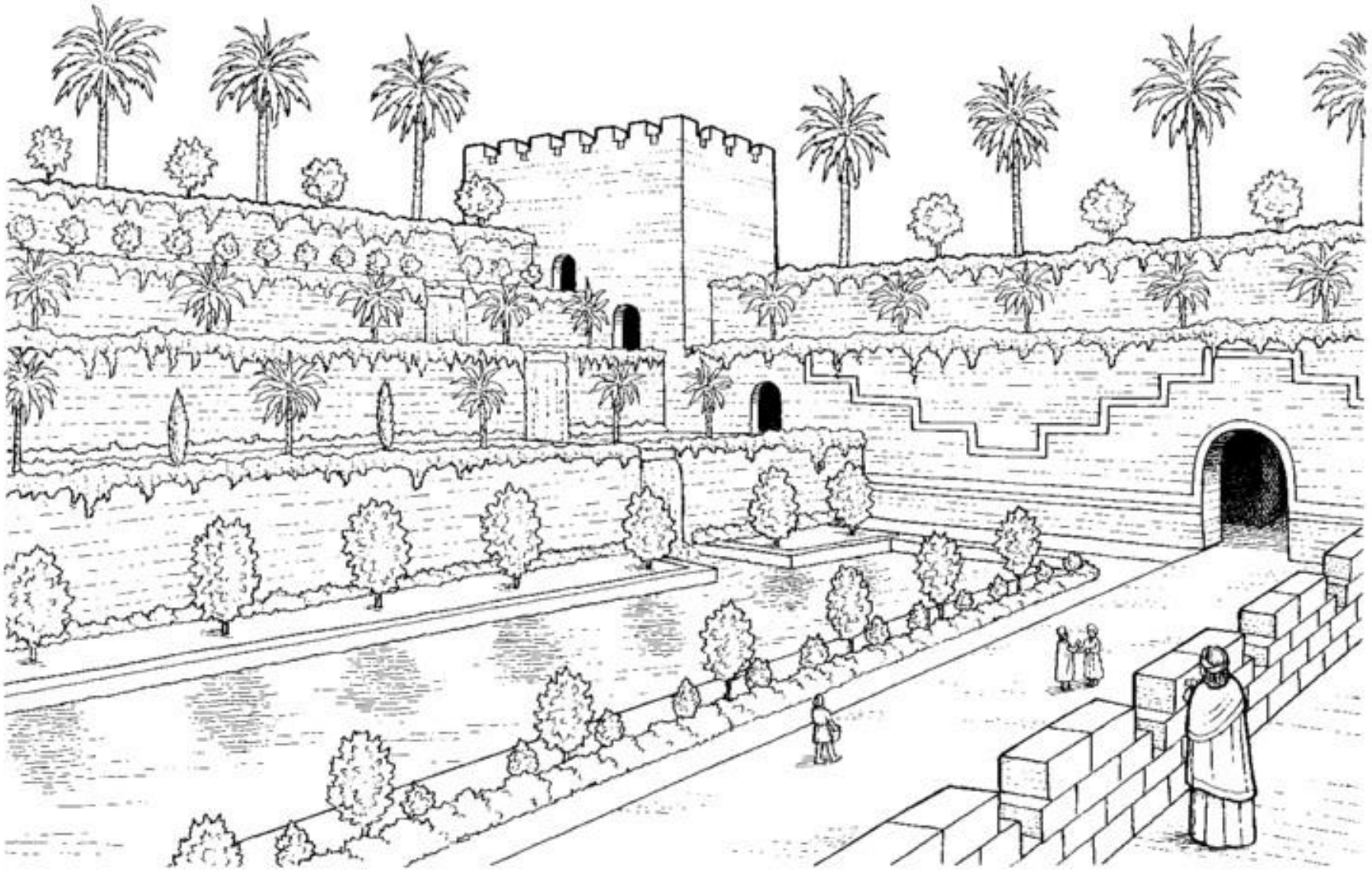


The oldest of the seven wonders of the ancient world is the only one that still survives: the group of **pyramids** in Giza, Egypt, on the west bank of the Nile near Cairo. The largest of them, the Great Pyramid of Khufu, was built by the pharaoh Khufu around the year 2560 B.C., to serve as his tomb. It is thought to have taken 100,000 laborers about twenty years to build, using an estimated 2.3 million blocks, each weighing more than two tons. This pyramid's base was 756 feet on each side, and when completed the pyramid was about 480 feet high. For more than forty-three centuries it was the tallest structure on earth—not to be surpassed till the nineteenth century A.D. On the north face is an entrance from which corridors, galleries, and escape shafts lead to the king's burial chamber or were used for other functions.

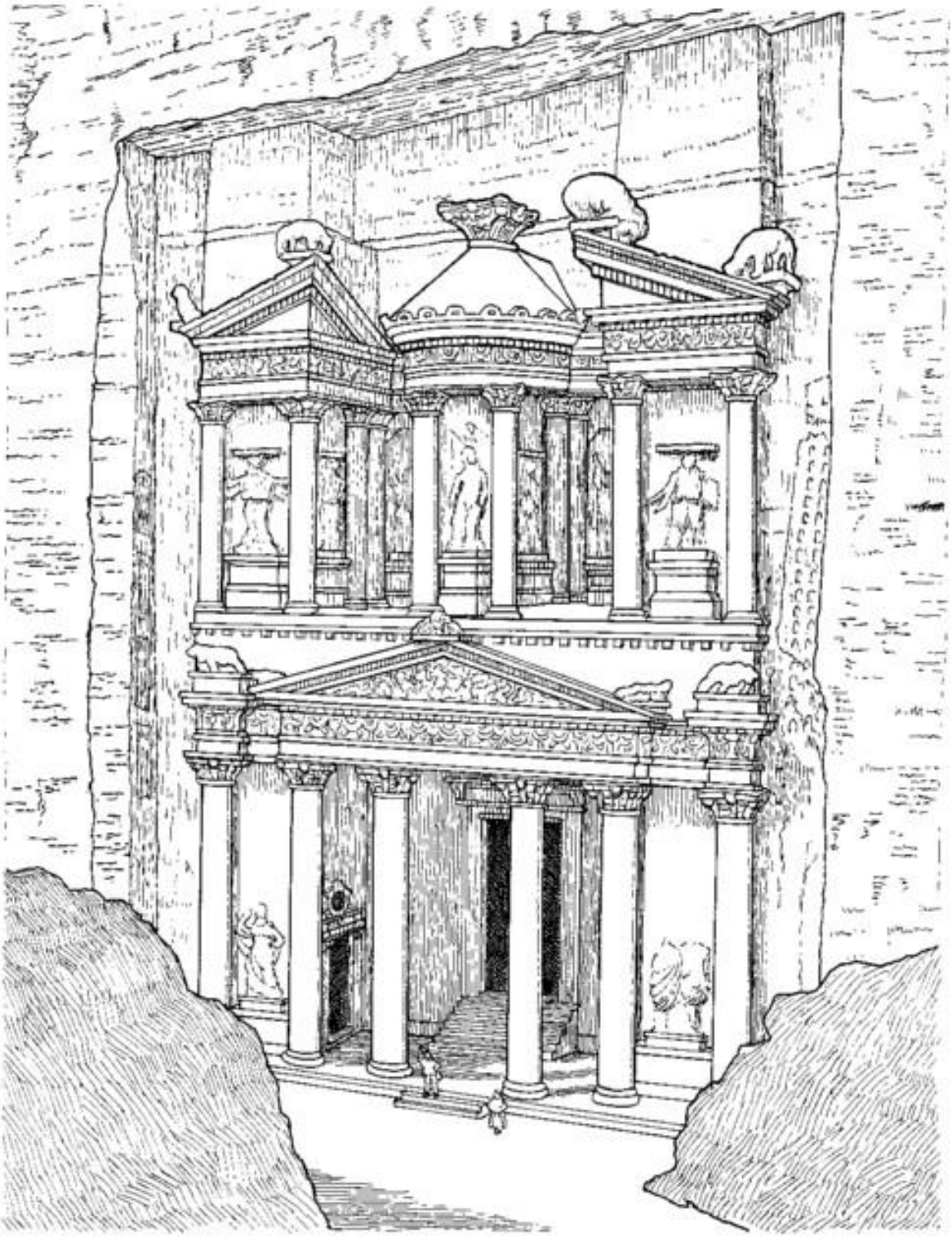
Another of the great pyramids was built for Khufu's son Khephren, (2558 2532 B.C.), and the **Great Sphinx**, which sits in a depression to the south of that pyramid, probably also was built for Khephren. The sphinx is a limestone creature, 240 feet long and 65 feet tall, with a lion's body and a human head facing the rising sun. Some people believe the face thirteen feet wide with eyes six feet high is a portrait of Khephren. Between the giant front paws is a stela on which King Thutmose IV (1425 1417 B.C.) tells about a dream he had, in which the sphinx promised that if he cleared away the sand that was choking it, Thutmose would be made king. And so it happened. Although the sphinx's head is badly battered, traces of the paint that once covered it can still be seen near one ear. The nose was destroyed when the Ottoman Turks used it for target practice.



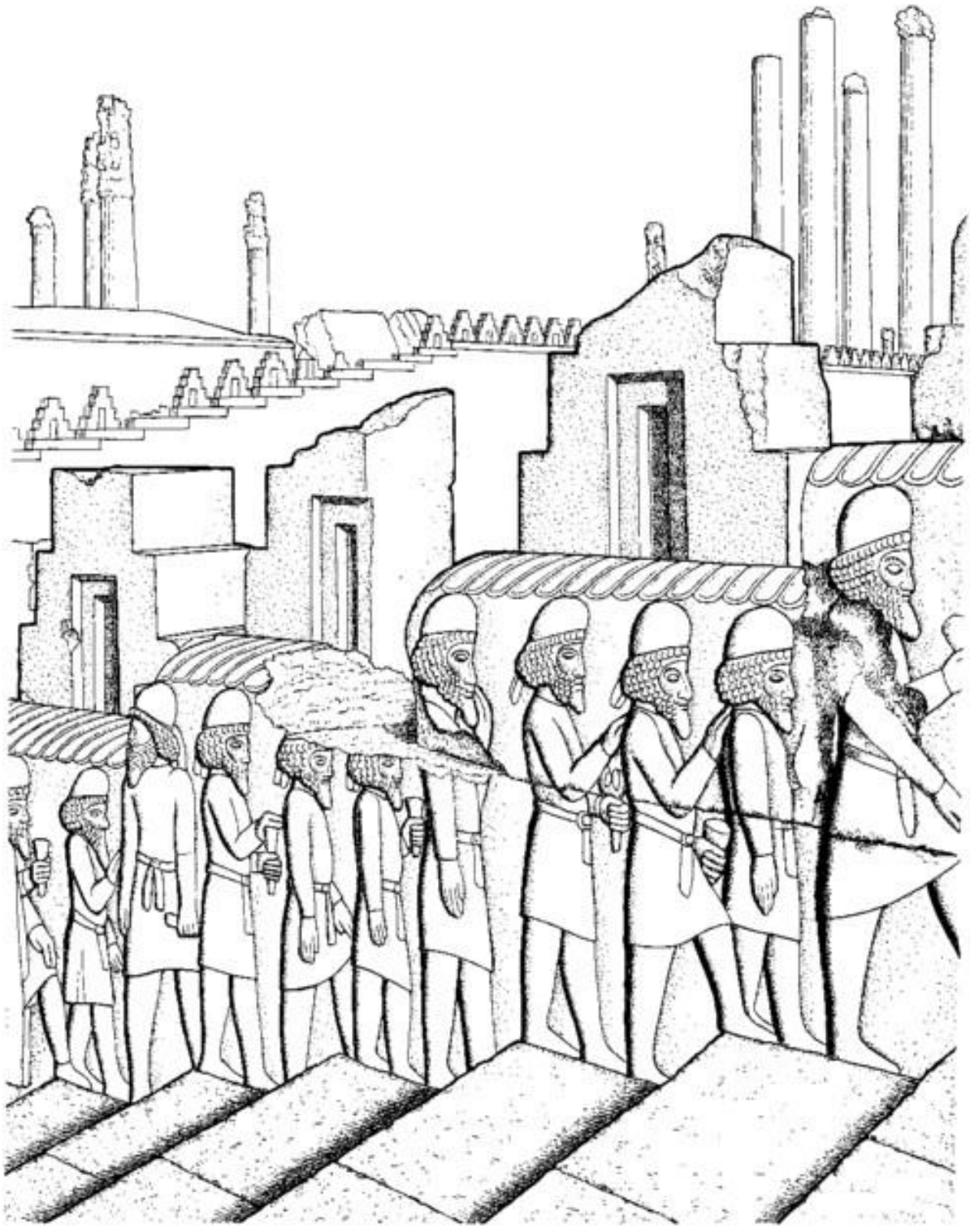
Abu Simbel is a temple cut out of the sandstone cliffs above the Nile River in ancient Nubia—now near the border of Egypt with Sudan—to honor Ramesses II, who reigned for sixty-seven years, around 1279–1213 B.C. Four huge statues of Ramesses, each about sixty-five feet high, sit in pairs flanking the entrance. The temple faces the east, and twice a year the sun's rays reach into the innermost sanctuary to illuminate four other seated statues—three of gods and one of Ramesses himself. The temple was in an area near the Second Cataract. In the 1960s, as the waters of Lake Nasser began to rise following completion of the Aswan High Dam, the temple was cut from the rock and shifted to higher ground 200 feet above and 600 feet west of its original location.



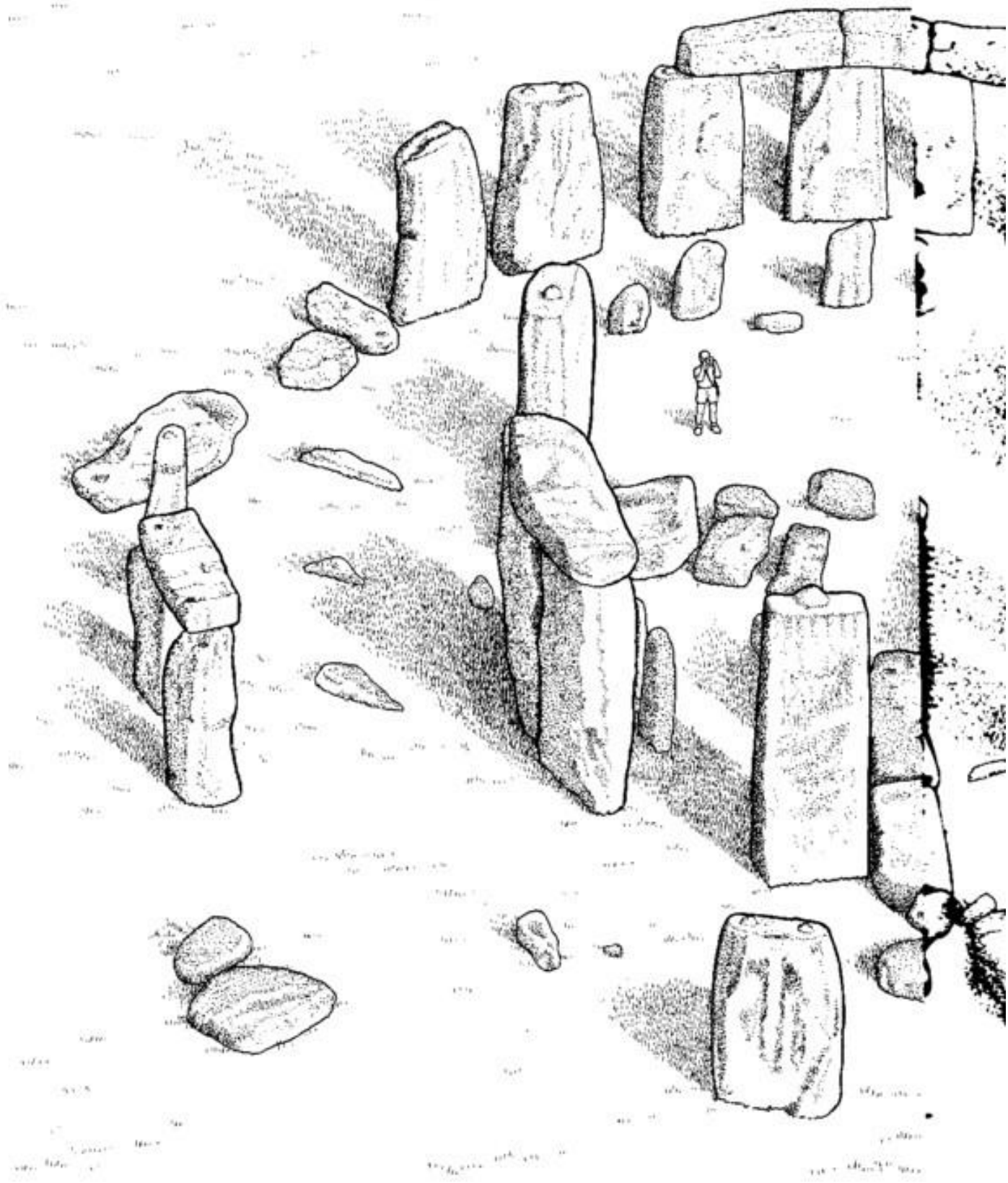
Though the **hanging gardens of Babylon** were one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, no trace of them has been found, and some people doubt that they ever existed. They are said to have been built around 600 B.C. by King Nebuchadnezzar **II** (604–562 B.C.) for one of his wives. They were located near the Euphrates River about thirty miles south of what is now Baghdad, Iraq, and were laid out on a brick terrace approximately 400 feet square and 80 feet high. "vaulted terraces raised one above another," according to the Greek geographer Strabo, "and resting on cube-shaped pillars. These are hollow and filled with earth to allow trees of the largest size to be planted. The pillars, the vaults, and terraces are constructed of baked brick and asphalt." The gardens were irrigated by slaves, who turned screws to lift water from the Euphrates.



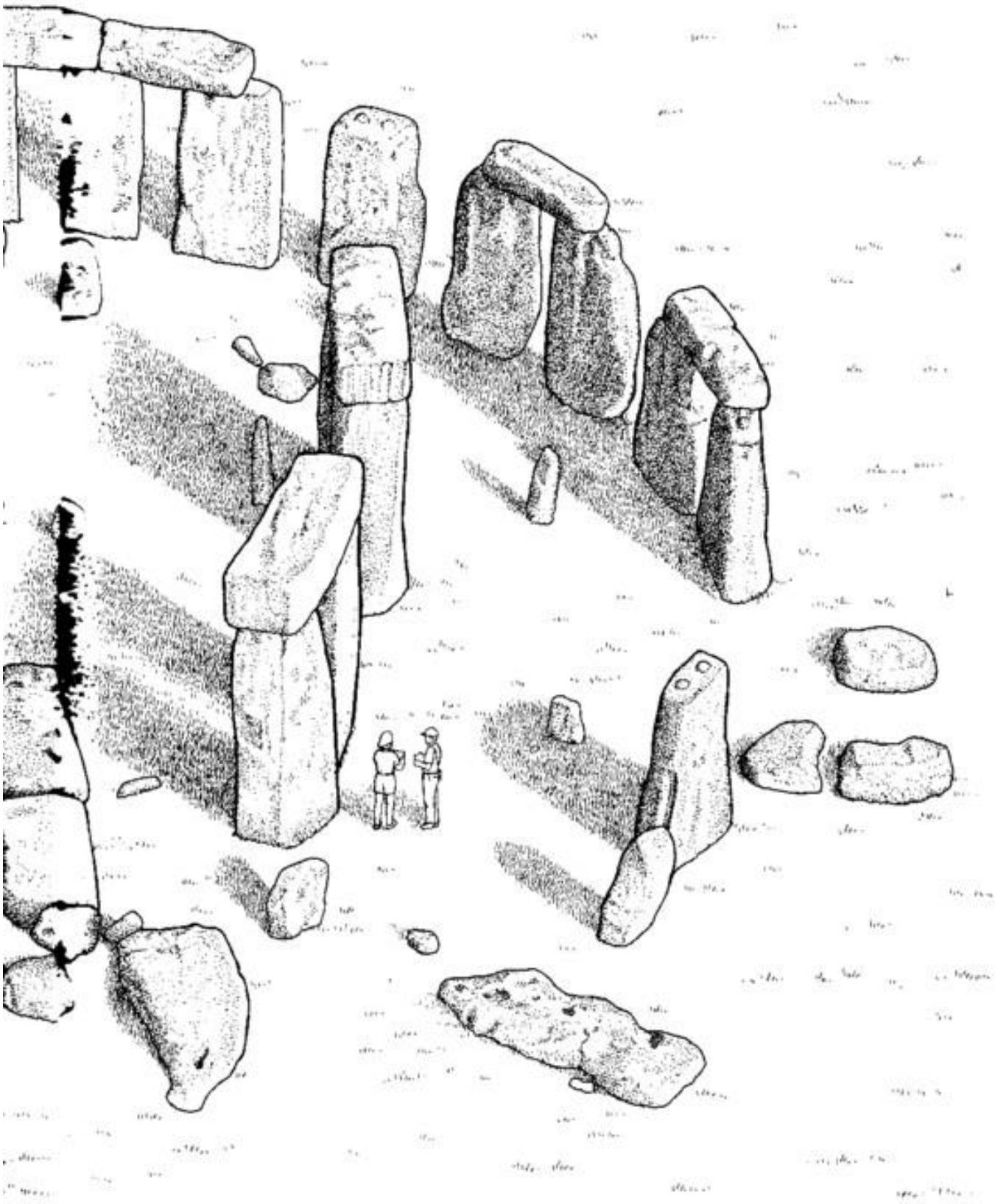
The Nabataeans, a tribe of pre-Roman Arabs, took **Petra** (Latin for "Rock") as their capital around the fourth century B.C. Located at the crossroads of trade routes, this impregnable city in the sandstone canyons of Wadi Araba, Jordan, survived on services provided to traders, and perhaps on taxes collected from them. Shown here is one of Petra's largest and best-known buildings—the so-called Treasury, which is about 130 feet tall and 100 feet wide and which was carved directly into the pink sandstone cliff. When the Treasury was built and what its purpose was, no one knows. Some people think it was a tomb, others think it was a temple, and still others think it really was a treasury. The Nabataeans survived several attempts to conquer their capital. Its decline seems to have come after it was finally captured by the Romans in A.D. 106.



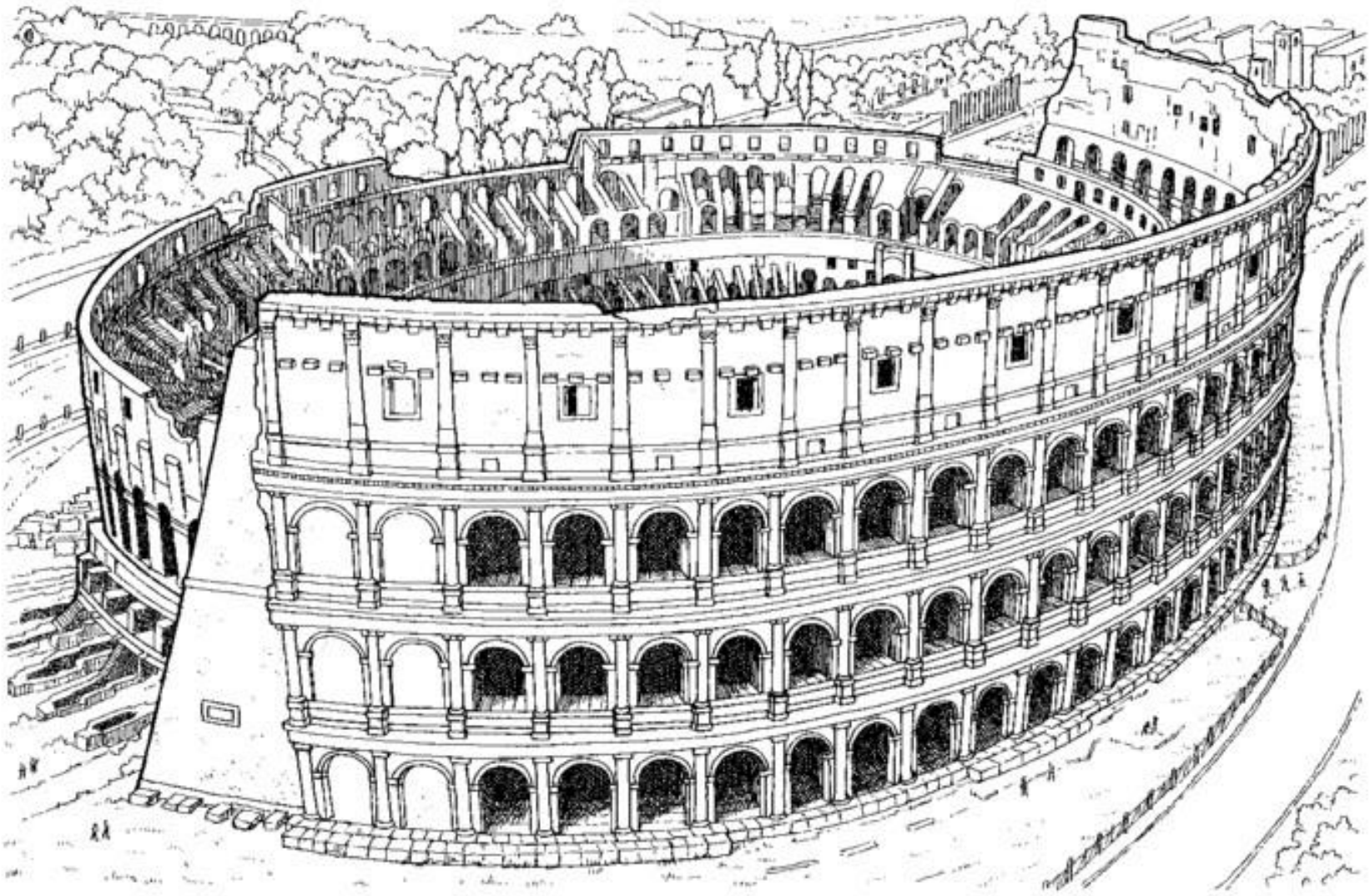
Thirty-five miles from modern-day Shiraz, Iran, was the city of Parsa (called **Persepolis** by the Greeks), founded in the sixth century B.C. by the kings of the first Persian empire. The city grew under later kings, and its finest monuments, including the Throne Hall shown here (also called the "Hundred-Column Hall") were commissioned by Xerxes I (ca. 470 B.C.). The Throne Hall's eight stone doorways are decorated with reliefs, and the northern portico is flanked by two colossal stone bulls. It is believed that the Throne Hall and the Gate of All Nations that led to it were used in New Year's celebrations, when representatives of subject nations presented their annual tribute to the Persian king. Persepolis continued to flourish till 330 B.C., when it was burned and destroyed by Alexander the Great.



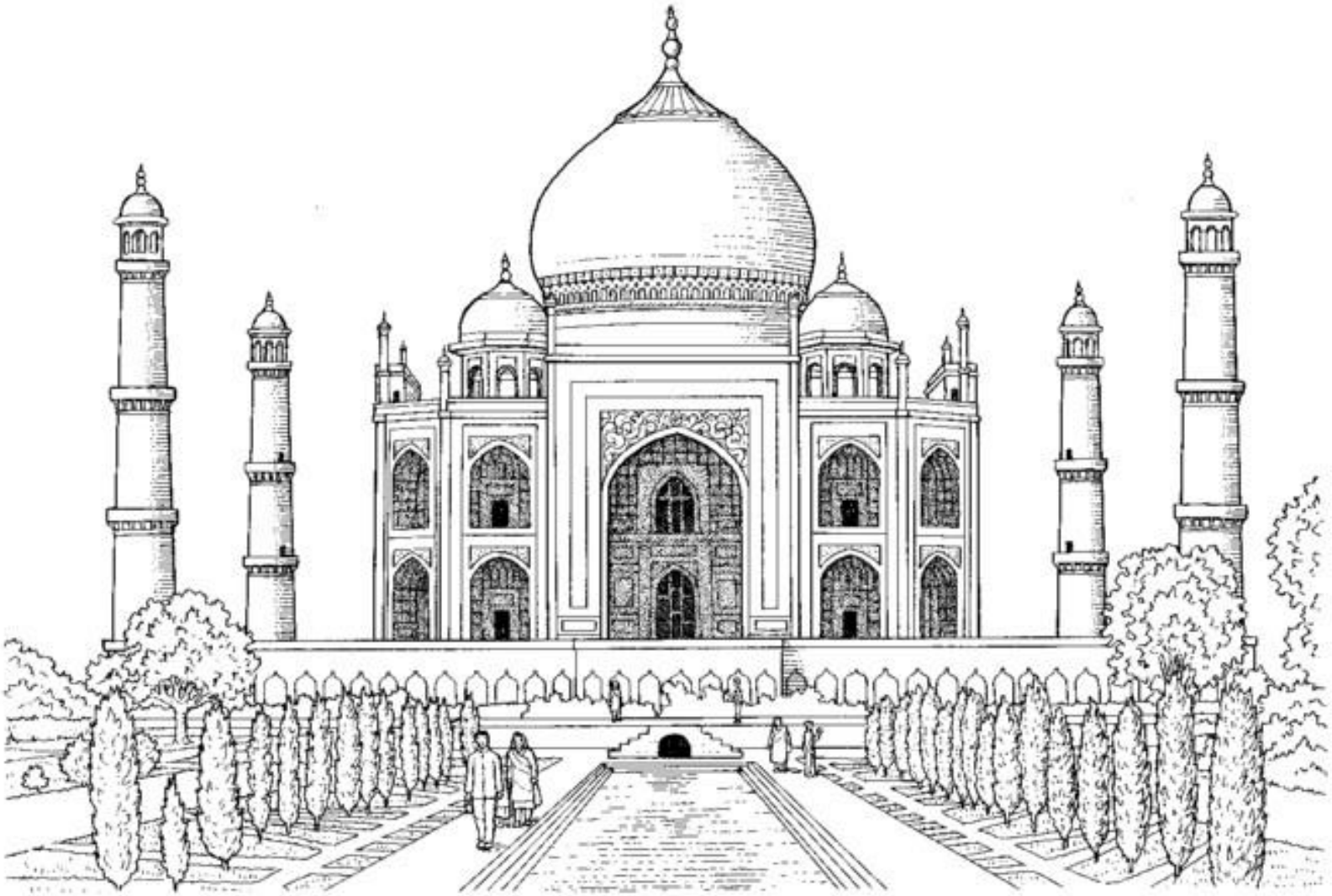
Stonehenge is one of the most fascinating of the wonders of the world because we know so little about it. What was the purpose of this great circle of huge stones in southern England? Who were the people who created it? How did they manage such a feat? Scientists have discovered that construction was begun 5,000 or more years ago, and that it continued, in three separate phases, over the next 1,000 to 1,400 years. They have discovered that



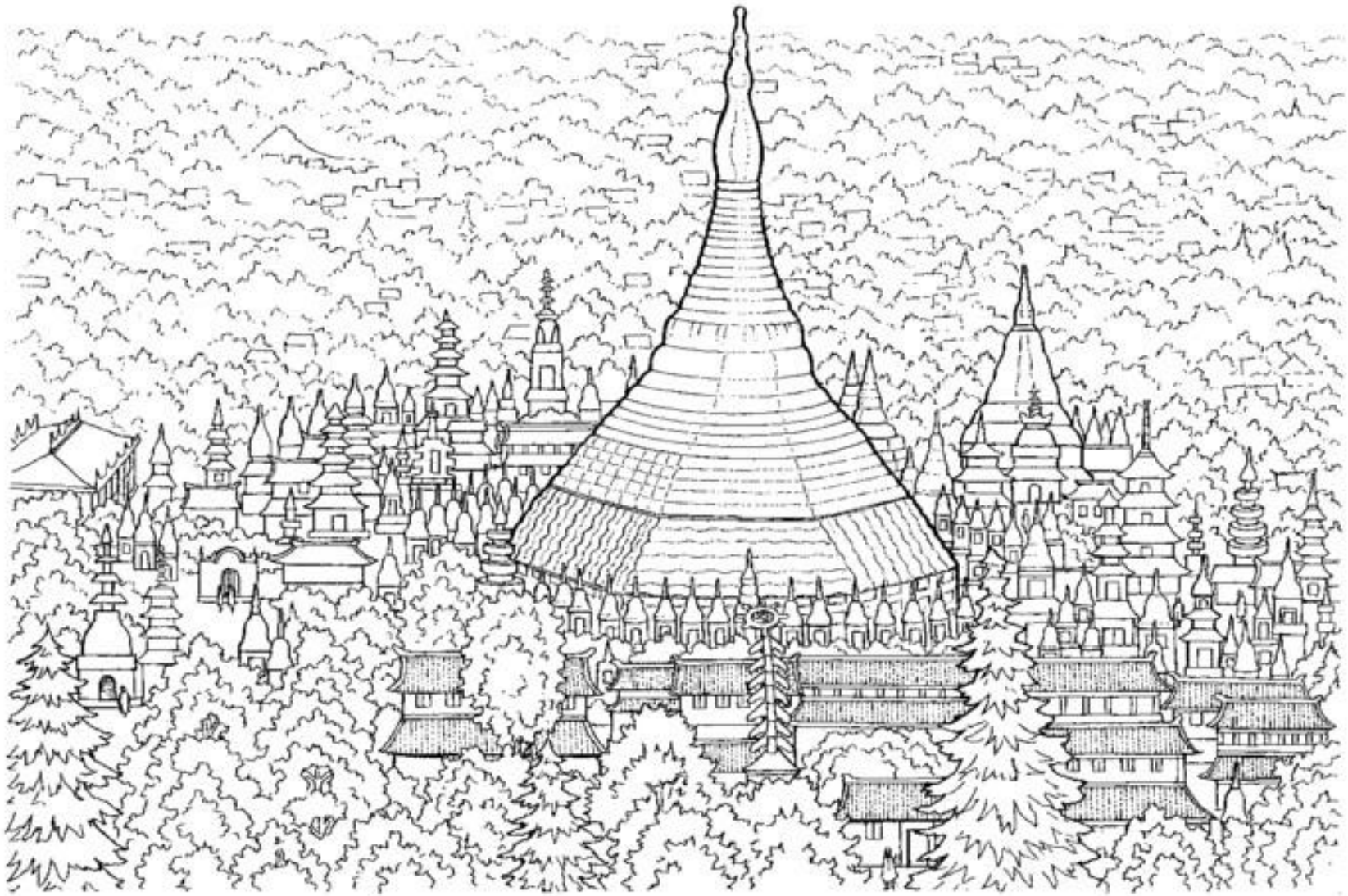
some of the huge stones came from 240 miles away in Wales, and that some of the stones are aligned with the summer solstice sunrise and sunset of the winter solstice. But many of the questions surrounding Stonehenge (and many other similar huge stone rings that exist in the United Kingdom) are ones that we will never be able to answer.



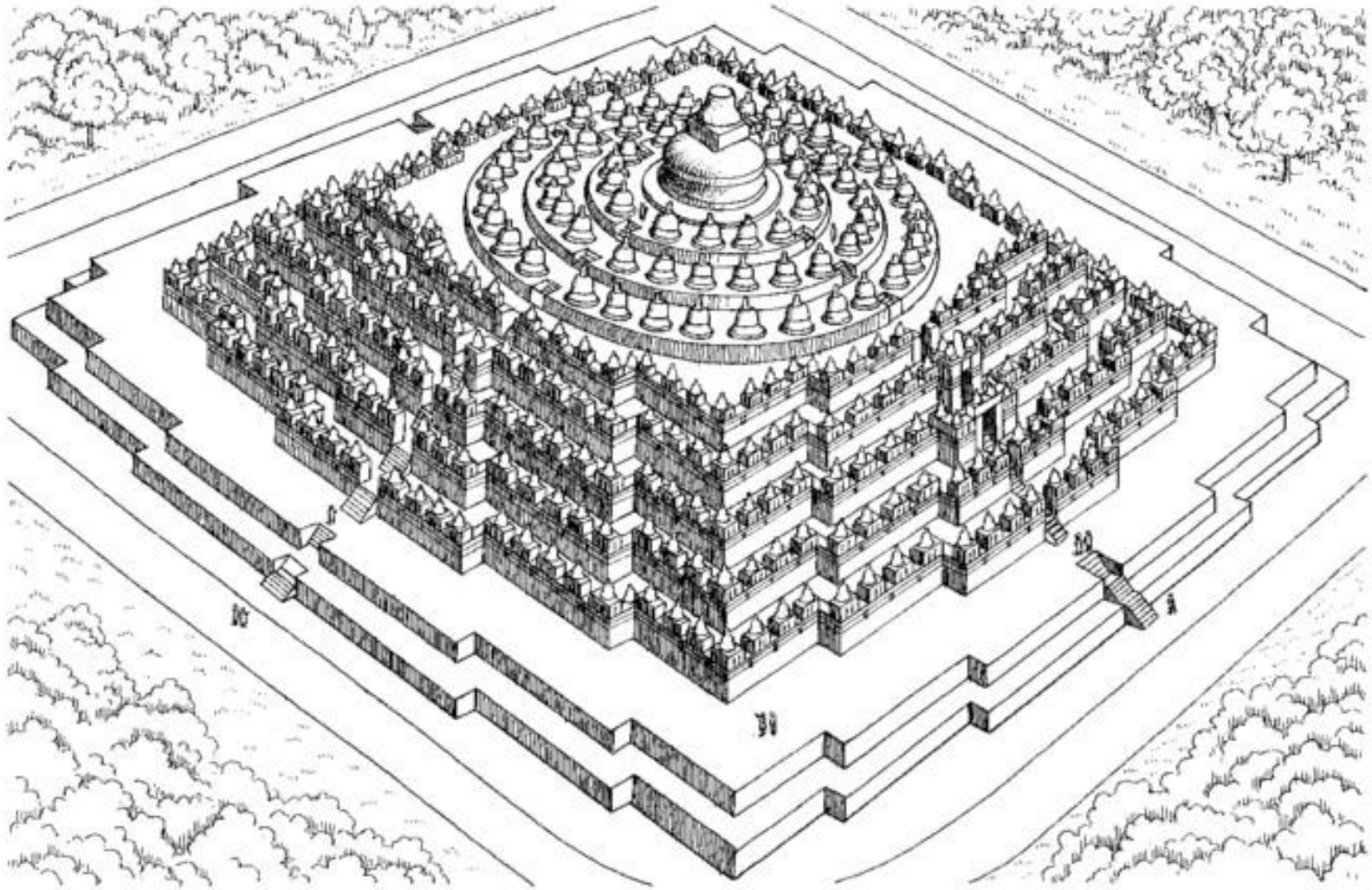
The **Colosseum**, which was ordered built by the emperor Vespasian around A.D. 70 and finished ten years later, was a huge elliptical stadium with an area of about 615 by 510 feet. It was 160 feet high, with four stories and seating for 50,000 spectators. The spectators entered through seventy-six entrances and climbed ramps to their seats. Women and poor people stood or sat on wooden benches in the fourth tier. A large, colorful awning could be stretched overhead to keep the sun off. Below the wooden arena floor were rooms and passageways where the wild animals and gladiators were kept. Shows often lasted all day, and included comedy, exotic animal shows, and gladiator fights. After the opening ceremonies in A.D. 80, 100 days of spectacles were held in which hundreds of animals and gladiators were killed. The gladiator fights were outlawed by Emperor Honorius in A.D. 404; animal combats continued for another century.



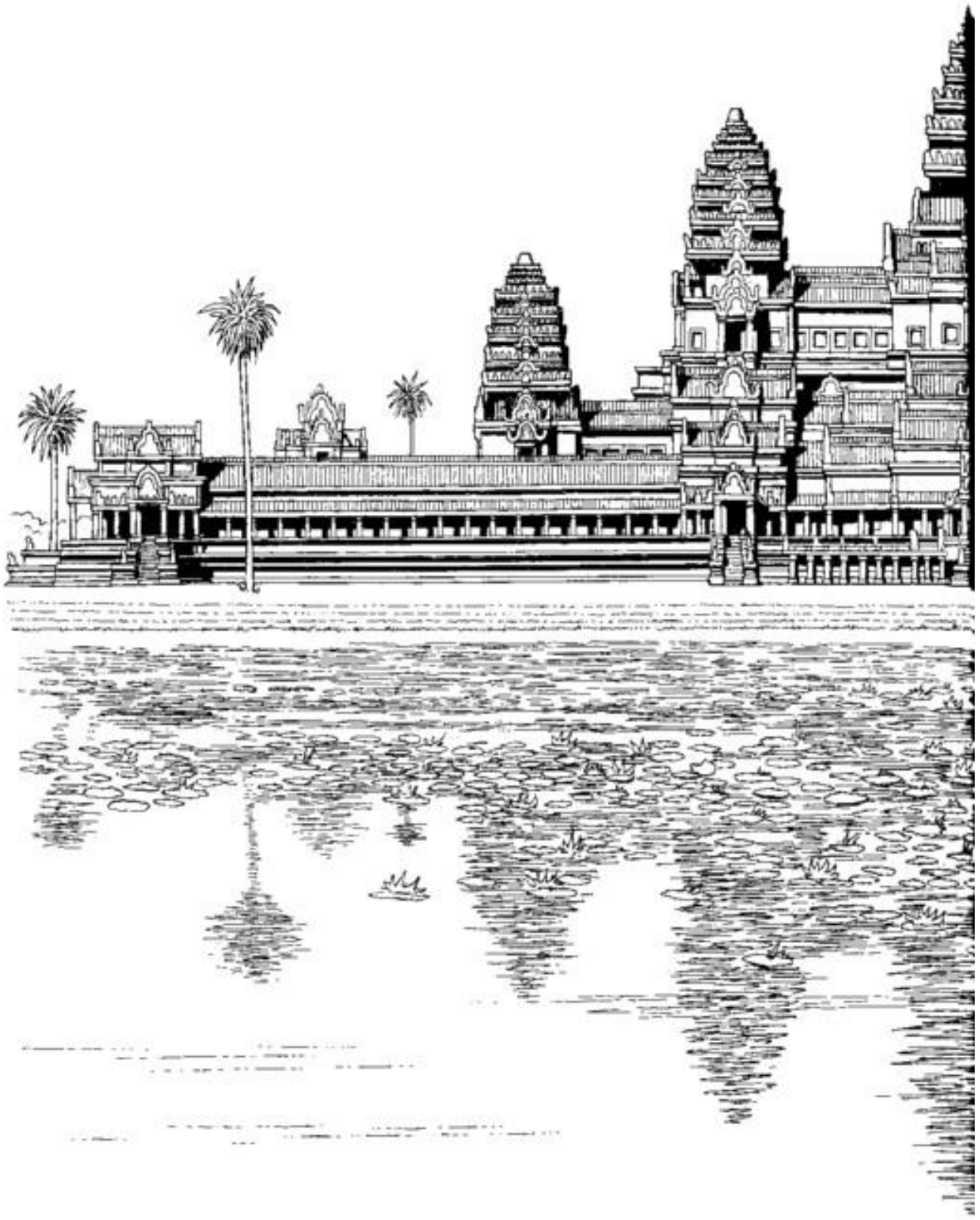
The Taj Mahal the most recent but one of the most beautiful of the wonders in this book was built by the fifth Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan (who ruled from 1628 to 1658), in memory of his second wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Mumtaz, a Muslim Persian princess, died in childbed in 1630 while giving birth to their fourteenth child. Shah Jahan began to build the Taj Mahal (usually translated "Crown Palace") the following year. It took twenty-two years and the work of over 20,000 workers and craftsmen to finish, and 1,000 elephants were needed to bring materials from all over India to the tomb's site in Agra, on the bank of the Yamuna River about 120 miles south of New Delhi. The famous white marble dome, with its four flanking minarets, rise from a white marble terrace atop a red sandstone base. Inside the dome is the jewel-inlaid cenotaph of the queen. The grave of Shah Jahan was added to it later.



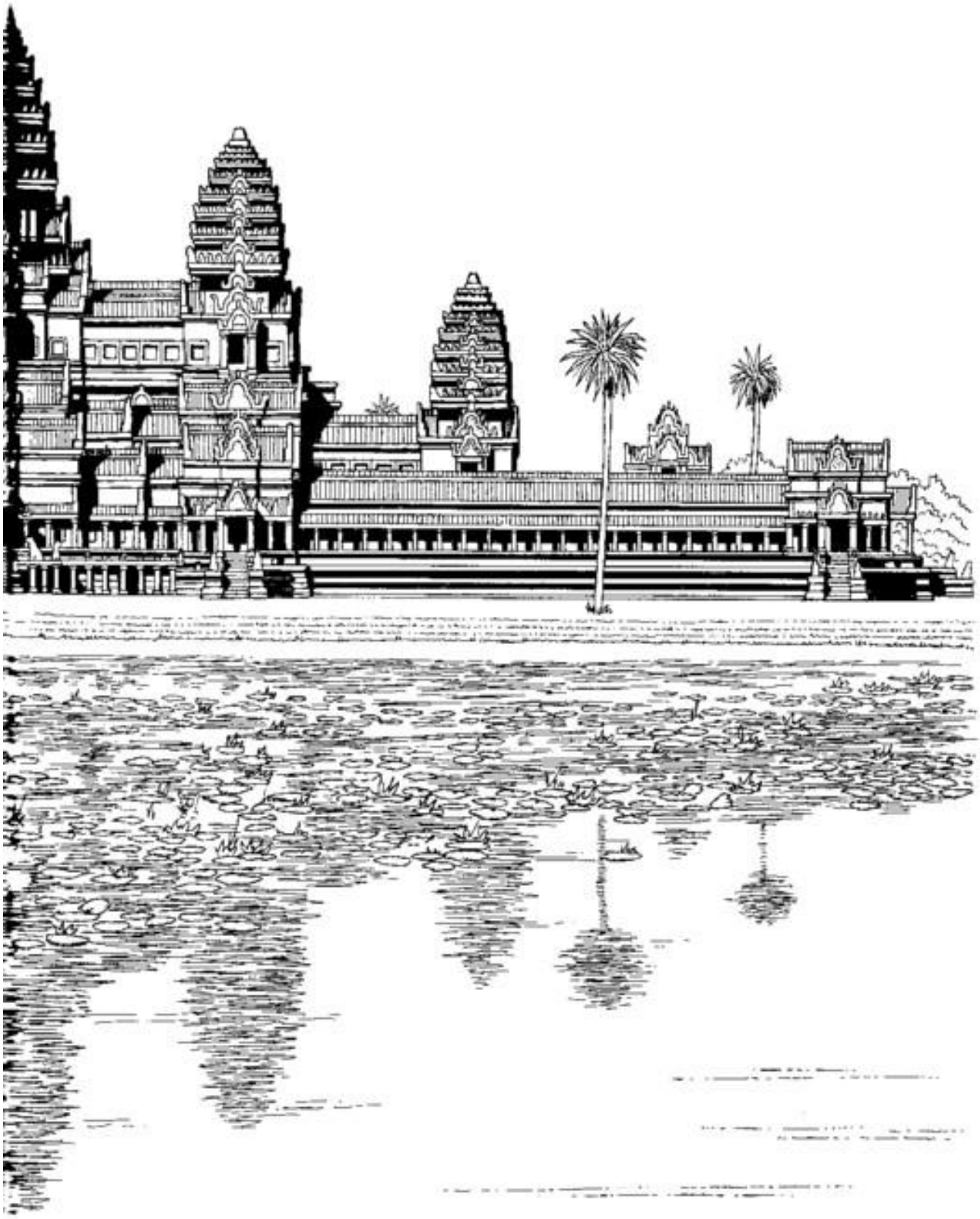
According to an Englishman named Ralph Fitch, who visited **Shwedagon pagoda** in 1586, it was "the fairest place . . . in all the world." This great cone-shaped Buddhist monument in Yangon, Myanmar, is said to have been built to enshrine eight of Buddha's hairs, and to have been built atop other pagodas of silver, tin, copper, lead, marble, iron, and gold. The existing pagoda is a solid brick stupa (Buddhist reliquary) that is completely covered with gold. It is 326 feet high, and its base is about 450 feet in diameter. The base is surrounded by four lesser pagodas, one on each side, and sixty-four still smaller ones. The pagoda's golden glow comes from the 21,841 solid gold bars with which it was plated. The tip of the stupa is set with 5,448 diamonds, 2,317 rubies, sapphires, and other gems, 1,065 golden bells, and – at the very top – a single 76-carat diamond.



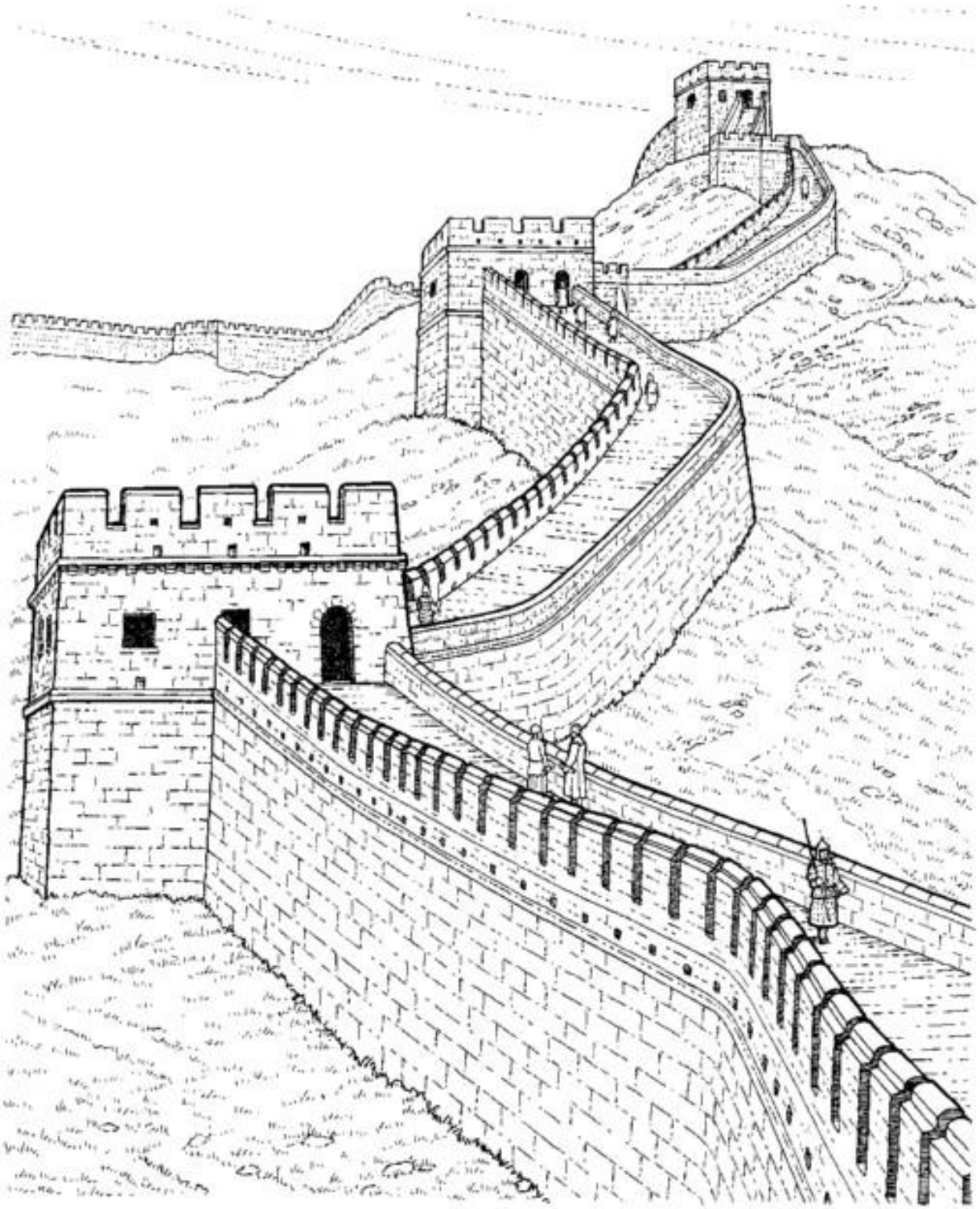
A Hindu dynasty began building the **Borobudur temple** in Central Java sometime around A.D. 775, but after the first two terraces were built, the Hindus were supplanted by Buddhist rulers. The new rulers went back to work on the unfinished temple in 790 and converted it into the world's largest Buddhist stupa. It was completed it in 835, but a century or two later it fell into decline. It lay forgotten under jungle growth and volcanic ash till Europeans cleared the site in 1815. In the early 1900s the temple was restored by the Dutch. The temple is almost 400 feet square at the base. It has ten stories and is about 110 feet high. The first six terraces contain more than 1,200 relief panels, many of them showing what life was like in ninth-century Java. The temple also contains 504 statues of Buddha. Each of the seventy-two small stupas on the upper three terraces used to contain a Buddha statue –but the temple's great crowning stupa, representing Nirvana, is empty.



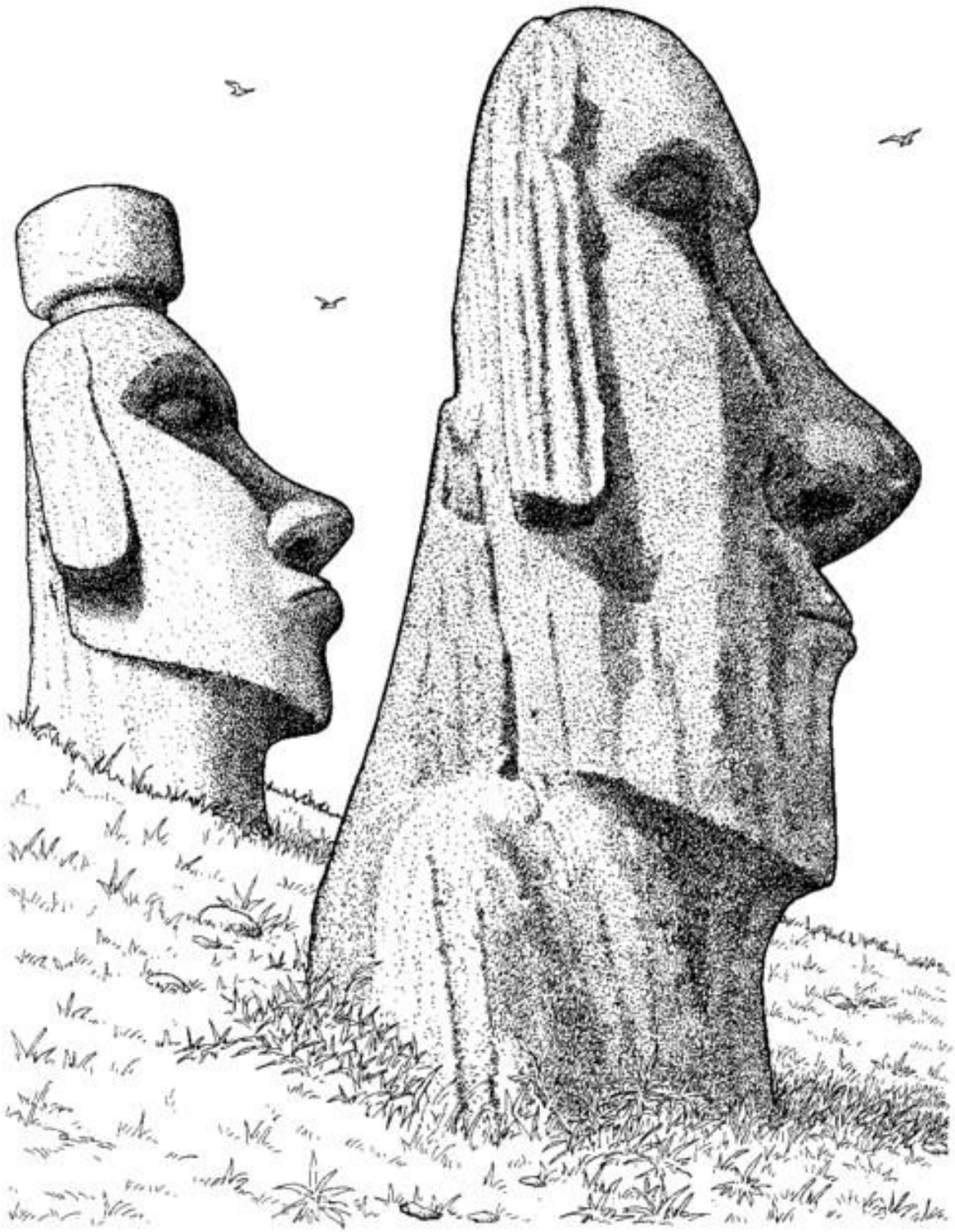
Angkor Wat, the magnificent temple to the Hindu god Vishnu, was built in the twelfth century in what is now Cambodia, when the city of Angkor, the capital of the Khmer empire, was at the height of its glory. Conceived by King Suryavarman II (1113–1150) as a sort of man-made mountain to correspond to the universe of Hindu cosmology, it consists of five towers representing the five peaks of Mount Meru, the home of the gods and the



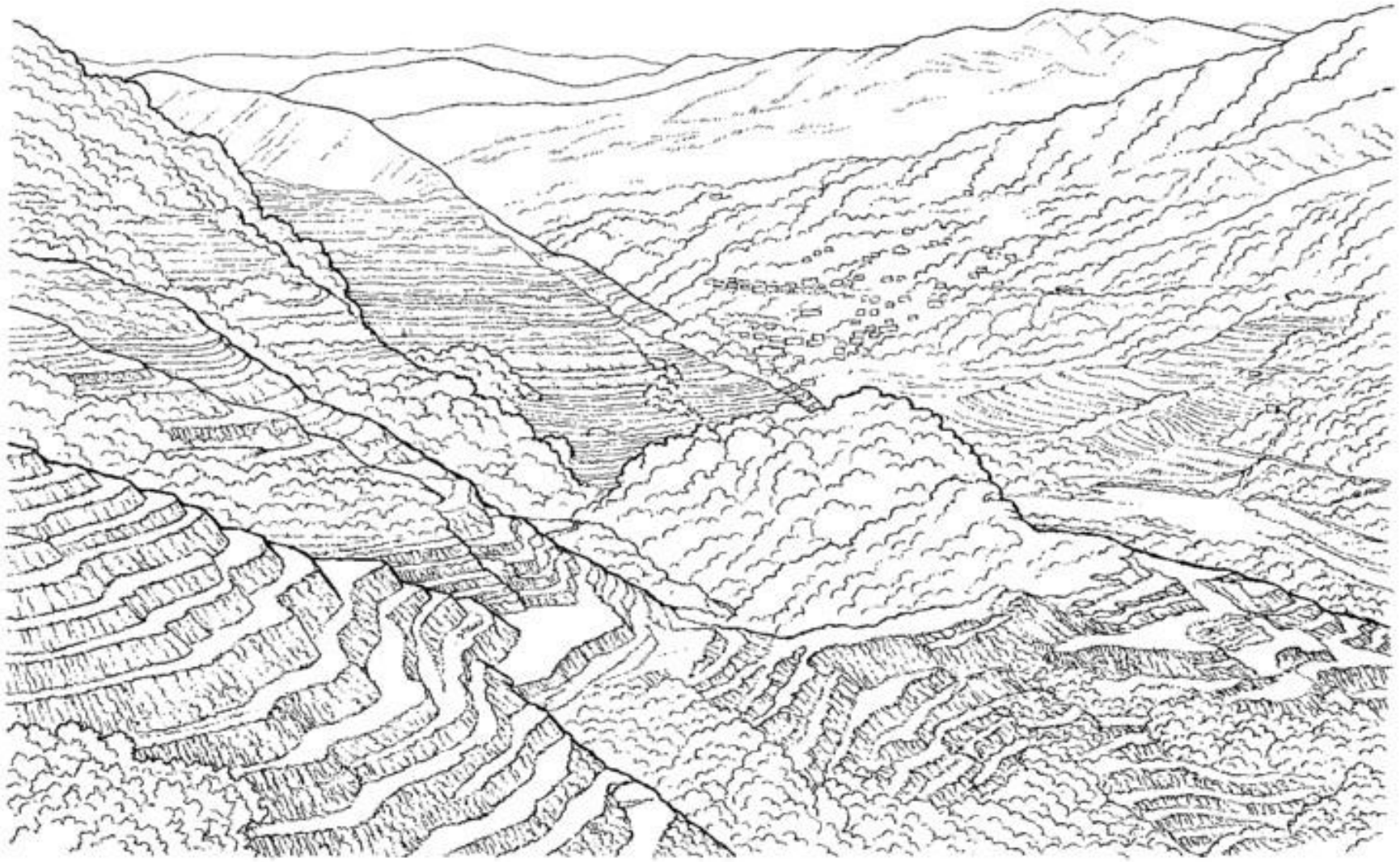
center of the Hindu universe. These five towers (the central one of which is 215 feet tall) are displayed on the Cambodian flag. A moat and three galleries surround the towers. Angkor Wat took thirty years to build, covers almost a square mile (4,250 by 5,000 feet), and is said to contain as much stone as the Great Pyramid in Egypt.



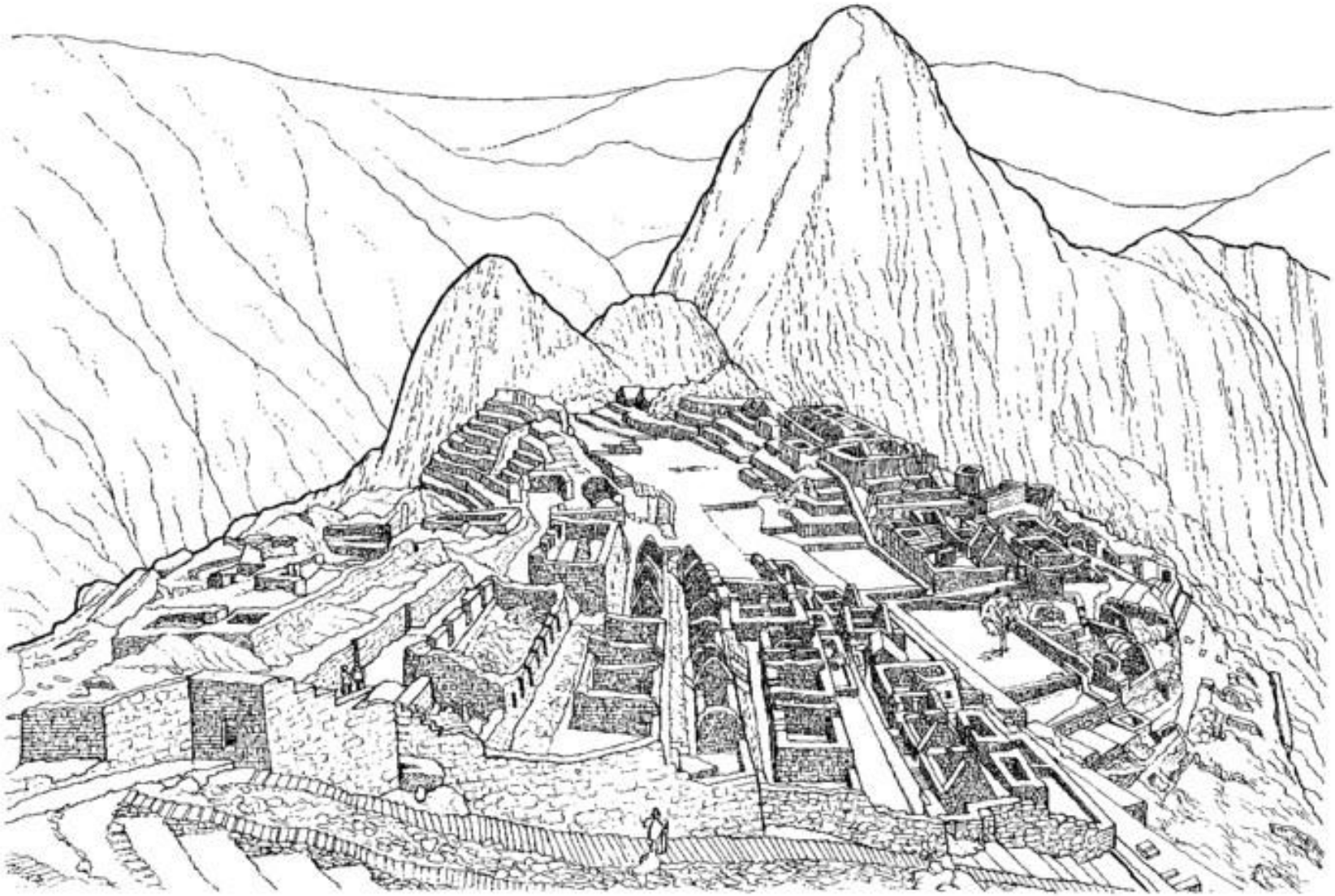
The **great wall of China** remains a construction feat unrivaled in its more than 2,500 years of existence. Averaging about thirty feet in height and fifteen in width, it stretches more than 4,000 miles, across some of China's most forbidding terrain, from the Korean mountains to the Gobi desert. Parts of the wall were built in the seventh century B.C. by feudal states that wanted protection from northern invaders. But its real history began with the first Qin emperor, who unified China in 221 B.C. He connected the old walls and extended them to more than 3,000 miles. The wall visible today was given its shape in the Ming dynasty (1368–1644)—a project that took 200 years to complete! The wall is made mostly of rocks and packed earth, but the Ming builders gave it a facing of kiln-fired brick. They also added watchtowers and cannons for further protection.



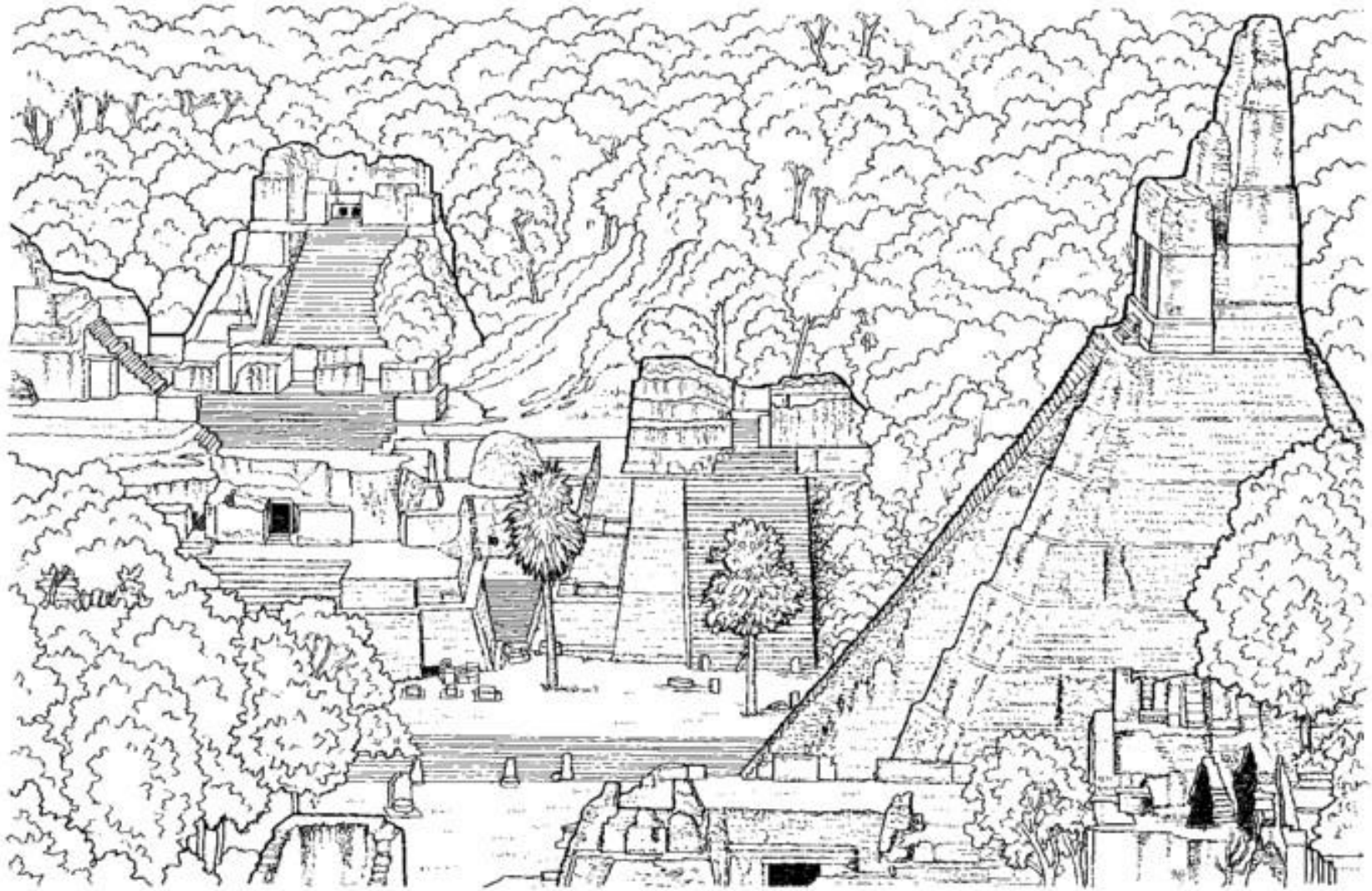
The huge **stone heads** dotting the shoreline of Easter Island (which its inhabitants call "Rapa Nui")—a triangle of volcanic rock in the South Pacific over 2,000 miles from its closest neighbors, Tahiti and Chile have puzzled visitors since the first Europeans arrived here on Easter day in 1722. There are almost 900 heads (called "moai" by the islanders), but only about a third of them were ever erected; almost 400 were left in the quarries, and another 100 abandoned while being moved. They average about thirteen feet in height, but range from smaller than four feet to one (abandoned in the quarry) seventy-two feet high. They are believed to have been created between A.D. 1400 and 1600. Then everything stopped. The population grew too great (perhaps to more than 10,000 people) for the small island, and the social order declined into civil war and even cannibalism.



Beginning over 3,000 years ago, using the most primitive tools, the Ifugao people began to increase their cultivable lands by carving terraces from the sides of the Cordillera Mountains near what is now Banaue in the northern Philippines. These so-called **Banaue rice terraces** rise to an altitude of 5,000 feet and make use of water from forests 2,000 feet above to ensure a continuous supply of crops. People kept expanding the terraces for perhaps 2,000 years, and their magnitude now is almost beyond belief: measured from end to end, they would stretch almost 14,000 miles – enough to circle more than half the globe! The rice patties are still productive, but a lack of water has made some of them dry up. The terraces need constant upkeep – but since the young people today no longer feel the need to farm rice, the terraces are increasingly being left to ruin.

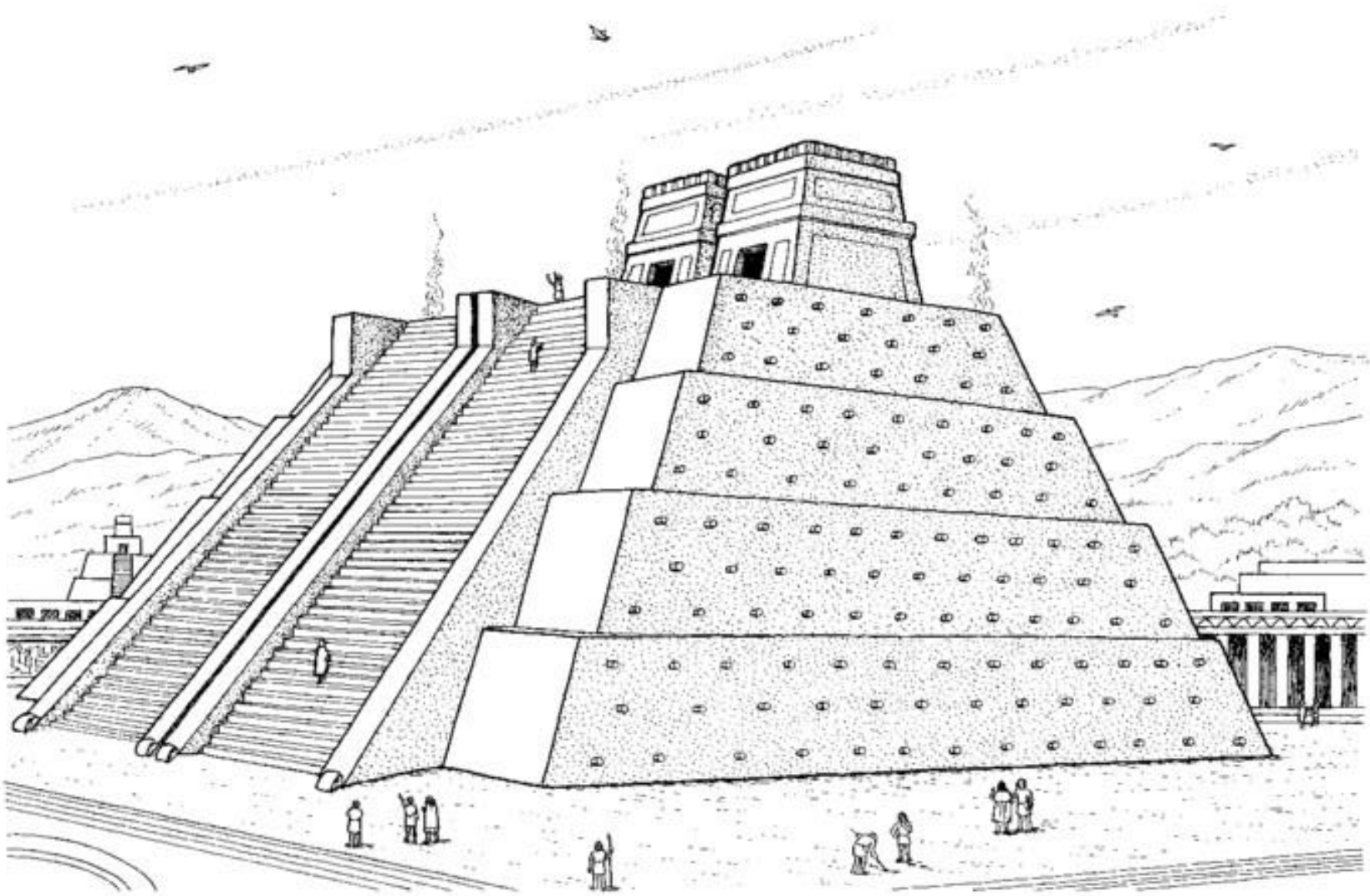


Machu Picchu (which means "old peak" in the Quechua language), is an Inca ruin that stirs the imagination because of its striking mountaintop location. Much of it is carved from stone, and it sits 8,000 feet above sea level about 2,000 feet above the cloud forest of the Urubamba River canyon, about fifty miles from what is now Cuzco, Peru. Once it was a town covering about two square miles, containing about 200 buildings and probably a population of 1,200 or so in its prime. It seems to have been a royal estate or religious retreat, probably built between A.D. 1460 and 1470 by the Inca ruler Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui. The ruins were rediscovered in 1911 by Hiram Bingham, a Yale University archaeologist.

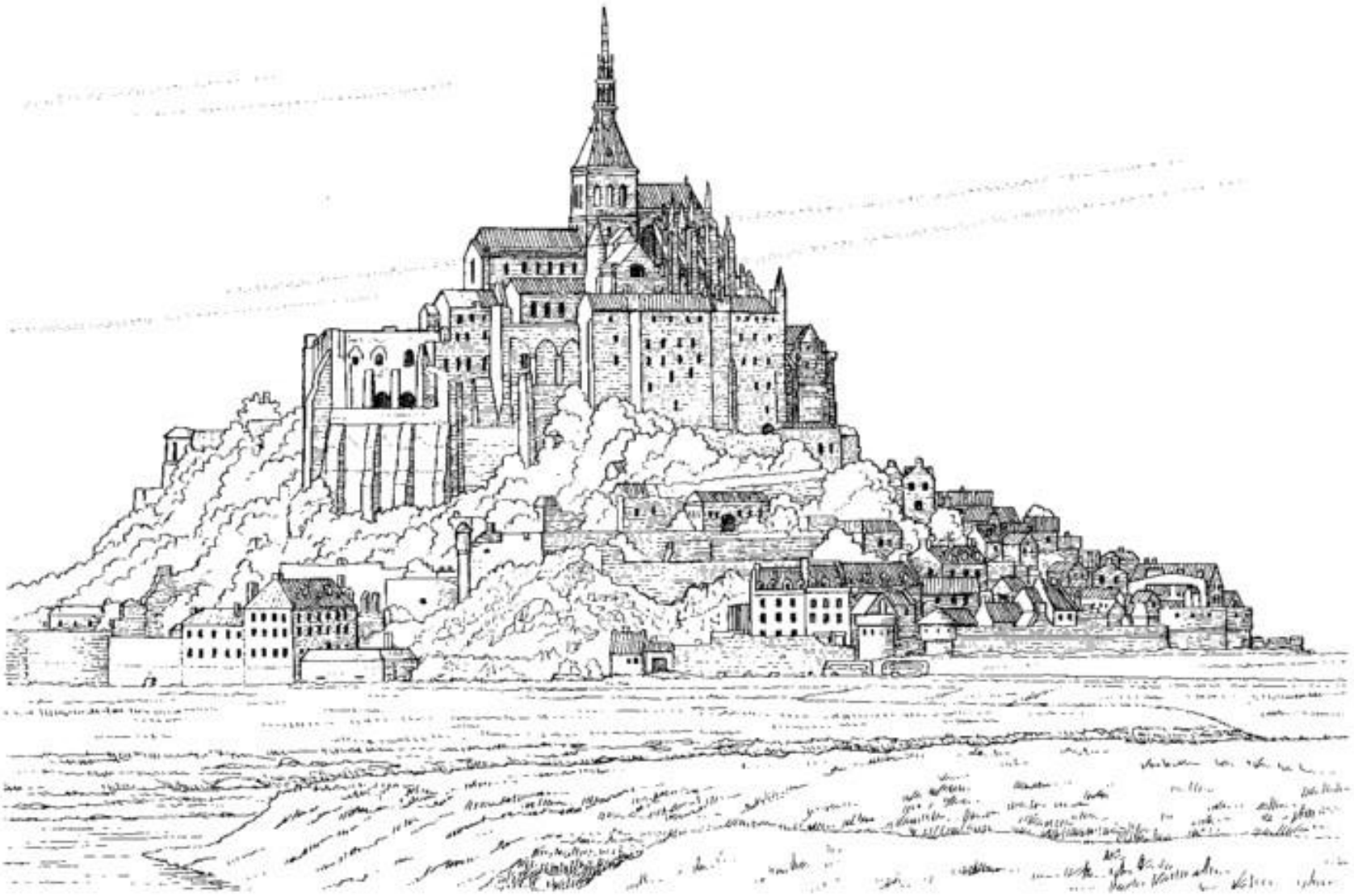


Tikal, which was once a thriving metropolis, is now the most impressive and magnificent Mayan ruin in Central America, located in the steamy jungles of El Peten province, on the Yucatan peninsula of what is now Guatemala. It seems to have been inhabited from 800 B.C. to A.D. 900, with over 100,000 inhabitants at its peak around A.D. 750. The great pyramidal temples that dominated the skyline used to be covered in bright colors—some of them completely red. Around A.D. 900, Tikal declined as Maya civilization in the region suffered a mysterious collapse whether because of overpopulation, environmental degradation, drought, or warfare, no one knows. Tikal was abandoned and over the centuries, as its buildings were reclaimed by the jungle, became a lost city. Some of its structures have now been restored, but most remain by the rainforest vegetation that is home to howler monkeys and brightly colored birds.

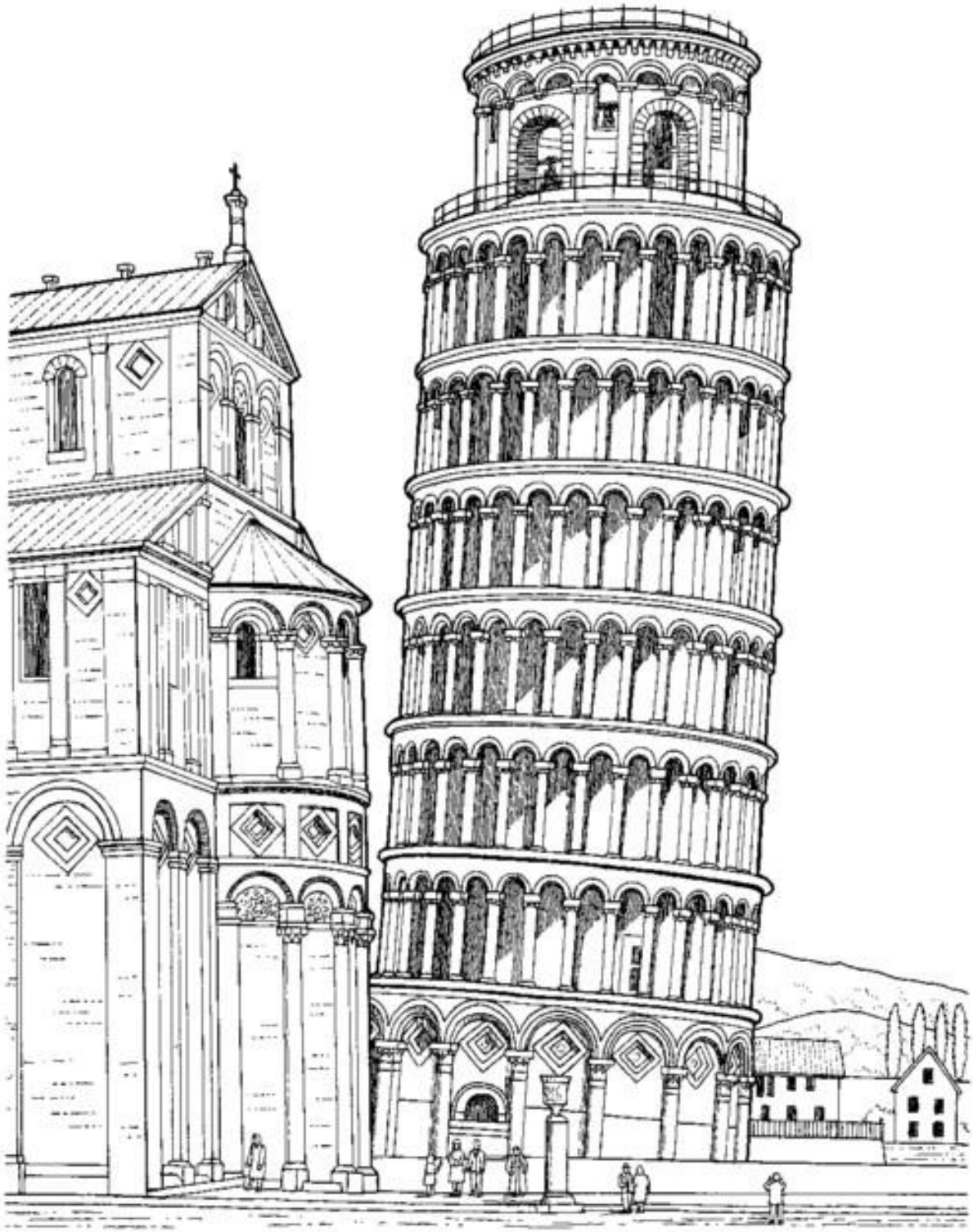
The Mayan city of **Palenque**, Mexico—containing some 500 buildings, only a few dozen of which have been uncovered—seems to have been occupied from as early as 300 B.C., but most of the buildings were constructed between about A.D. 600 and 800, when it was a major population center. Then the great city was abandoned to the jungle till its ruins were rediscovered in 1773. Among the most famous buildings in Palenque is the one shown here: the Temple of the Inscriptions, which sits at the top of a stepped pyramid and which contains panels recounting the history of Palenque's kings. In 1948 a passageway was found in the temple's floor leading down through the pyramid to a chamber five feet below the level of the plaza. Here—adorned with jade ornaments and his face covered with a jade mask—were found the remains of Hanab Pakal, Palenque's ruler from A.D. 615, when he was twelve years old, till his death in 683.



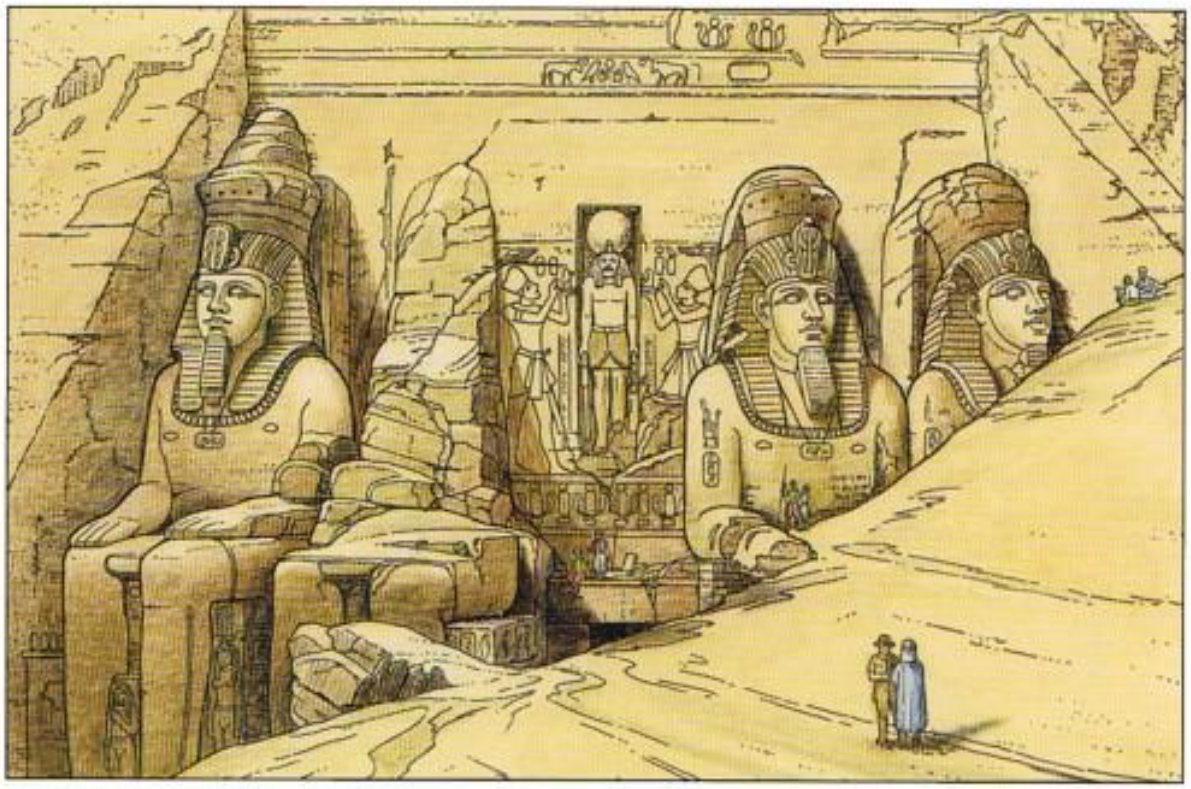
Around A.D. 1325, the Aztecs built their capital, **Tenochtitlan**, on a group of islands in the huge Lake Texcoco, one of the shallow lakes that covered a large part of the Valley of Mexico, and connected it to the mainland by three causeways. It was a major city, with a population of around 200,000, and flourished till 1521, when Hernán Cortés and his Spanish army invaded and captured the city. According to Spanish accounts, Tenochtitlan contained elaborate palaces, marketplaces, pyramids, and a central ceremonial center that was focused around the Templo Mayor, or Great Pyramid, shown here. The two staircases led to twin temples at the top of the pyramid--one dedicated to Huitzilopochtli, the patron deity of the Aztecs, and the other to Tlaloc, the god of rain and agricultural fertility. Cortés and his army destroyed all this and built a Spanish city atop the ruins.



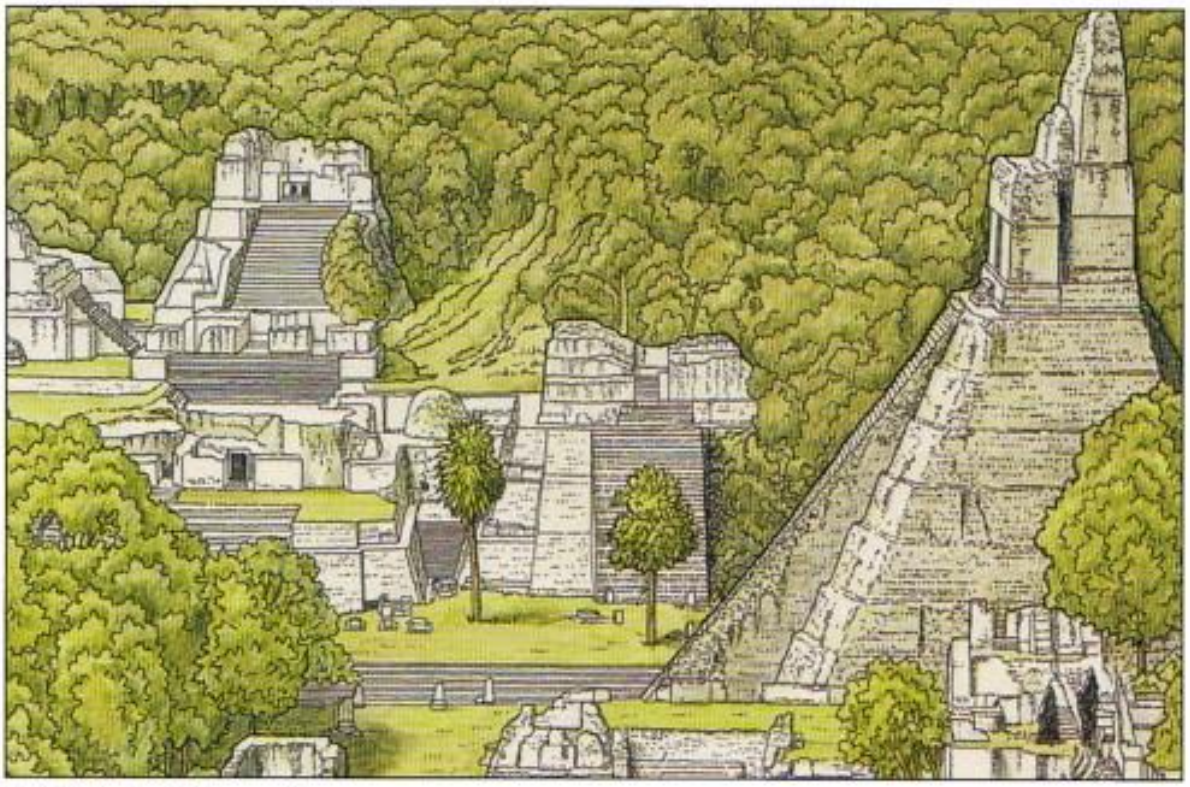
This tiny island, about two-thirds of a mile across and 250 feet high, is **Mont-Saint-Michel**, on the north coast of France near the border of Brittany and Normandy. At high tide it is about a mile from the shore. At low tide (before the causeway was built in 1870), only sand separated it from the mainland — a very dangerous walk, however, because the tide rolled in so quickly. It was said that a galloping horse could hardly cover the distance between the island and the mainland before being overtaken by the tide! The first chapel on this island was founded in 708 by Bishop Aubert of Avranches, after the archangel Michael appeared to him in a dream. In 1017 Abbot Hildebert II began the magnificent abbey church you can see today, which was not completed till 1520. After the French Revolution, the island became a prison for a while (called "Mont Libre"), but since 1872 France has cared for it as a national monument.



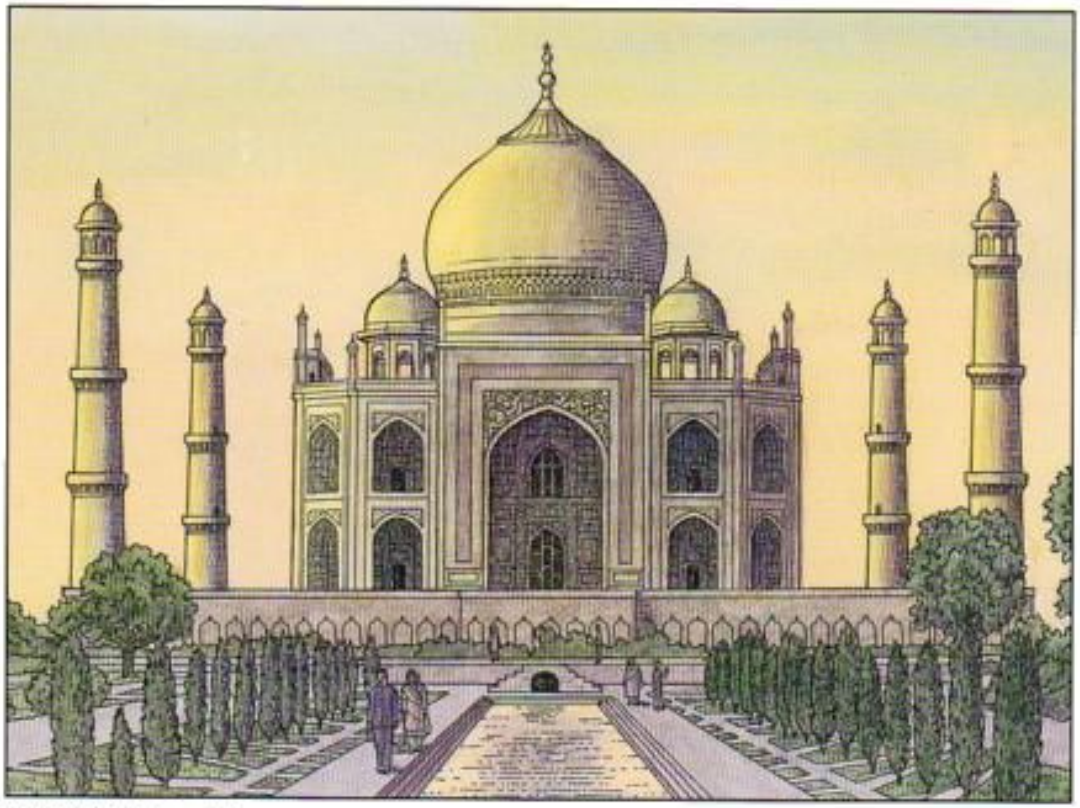
The **Leaning Tower of Pisa** is famous for one thing: it leans. And it hasn't fallen over—yet. It's been leaning for more than eight hundred years. It was built as a bell tower. The first stone was laid in 1173, but work was halted in 1184, after the third story was completed, because it was already clear that one side of the foundation was sinking, causing the tower to begin to lean. From 1275 to 1284, another architect added three more floors, partially correcting the lean. The tower was finally completed, at eight stories and a height of 185 feet, in 1350 only a third of the height originally planned. The leaning kept increasing till a few years ago, when the tower was finally stabilized by adding almost a thousand tons of lead to its north side.



Abu Simbel (Egypt), page 10



Tikal (Guatemala), page 26



Taj Mahal (India), page 17

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